

Bavarian News

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U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

September 5, 2007

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Bullseye

Local Cub Scouts wrap up a weekend of fun activities during a campout on Grafenwoehr Aug. 26. Read about it in the Sept. 19 issue of the Bavarian News.

Photo by Paula Guzman

JMTC's Snook named Soldier of Year

by AIMEE MILLHAM
USAREUR Public Affairs

The wait to find out who won was longer than the competition. But the nail-biting ended Aug. 24 when U.S. Army Europe announced its top Soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year during a ceremony in Heidelberg.

Staff Sgt. Travis Snook, an instructor at the 7th Army NCO Academy, and Cpl. Mihai Mocanu, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, earned the job of representing USAREUR at the Department of the Army-level NCO and Soldier of the

year competition.

"I am confident that either of you could win it for us at the DA level," said Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, USAREUR command sergeant major, during the ceremony at Heidelberg's Village Pavilion.

Coordinators aim to make the USAREUR competition harder than



Snook

the DA competition, said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Stanfill, USAREUR human resources manager and event coordinator.

"If they can tackle this competition, it'll make the DA competition all the easier," he said.

To clinch their titles, both winners excelled above and beyond their peers in a three-day competition that included two land navigation courses and a 15-kilometer ruck march.

The event also included day and night weapons qualifications, an appearance before a board, written examinations, an Army Physical

Fitness Test, and a series of other combat tasks.

"Soldiers do better when they have a challenge in front of them," said Sgt. Maj. Brad M. Weber, the USAREUR personnel directorate sergeant major and competition coordinator.

Snook and Mocanu met that challenge, and during the competition, both believed they were the best choice to represent U.S. Soldiers in Europe.

The other four competitors were Spc. Eric Garcia, Sgt. Jose Quinones, Sgt. Melissa Potter, and Sgt. Jeremiah Ruggles.

Weak dollar causes many Amerians to shop on post

by SUSANNE BARTSCH
USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

The results are in. Among many other findings, local Americans spend most of their money on the military installations and are doing more online shopping than ever before.

Grafenwoehr resident and former University of Bayreuth student, Tobias Schwemmer, 27, conducted surveys in January with U.S. personnel and family members, the findings of which he used to write his thesis, "The Impact of the Shopping Habits and Leisure Time Behavior of Americans

on the Service Structure of a Garrison City Based on the Example of Grafenwoehr."

"First, I would like to thank everybody who took the time to fill out a survey," said Schwemmer, who has since completed his master's degree in Economic Geography and Regional Planning. "Without the support of the many U.S. Grafenwoehr residents, I could not have written my thesis."

"The survey showed what I had expected and that is that most Americans who live here shop in the American stores on post," he said. "That is especially true for durable

goods. If they shop on the local economy, it is mainly for everyday items and they prefer shopping in larger towns like Weiden and Amberg over shopping in Grafenwoehr."

Schwemmer said that shopping online is becoming increasingly popular. One third of those who responded to the survey stated that they frequently shop online.

The quality of the products offered on the local economy was rated average to good, but off-post prices were considered too high compared to those at the local U.S. facilities.

See AMERICANS Page 6



City of Grafenwoehr resident Tobias Schwemmer conducted a survey of American shopping habits in the local area.

Customers save 75 percent off retail at Grafenwoehr Thrift Store

■ Profits aid local community, needy in Iraq and Czech

by BILYANAATOVA
Bavarian News

If you think that it is not possible to get a brand new Baby GAP or Gymboree outfit for a few bucks, then think again.

The Grafenwoehr Thrift Store makes name brand shopping affordable.

"We have anything you can think of," said Roseanna Cintron, the Grafenwoehr Community Spouse Club liaison for the thrift store as she displayed a new pair of Gymboree baby shoes,

still with its original tag, for \$2.

In addition to children's and adult clothing, the store offers electronics, dishes, books, toys, military uniforms, home décor, and much more.

Most items are in very good condition or new and the stock changes constantly, said Cintron. She said the prices are generally a mere 20-25 percent of the retail cost.

Cintron said the store carries many of the main brands one might find in the United States, including Ralph Lauren, and Banana Republic, and other brands not offered by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service.

If AAFES does stock them, she said, the prices at the thrift store are still only "a fraction of what it would cost in the PX."

"We really try to improve the quality and standardize the prices," said Cintron, while pulling a deeply discounted girl's Marc O' Polo plaid pants and Burberry pullover off the rack.

"Who wouldn't (dress) their kids in these things," she said.

In addition to buying items at the store, community members can consign their new and used items.

Cintron said up to 32 items per day can be consigned, and a check for purchased items will be mailed to the consignee, wherever in the world they are.

She said this system is ideal for PCSing Families who need to get rid of 220 voltage items before moving.

On the other hand, people arriving from the U.S. can purchase household electric items, such as blenders, coffee pots, and transformers at extremely low costs.

The thrift store retains a 25 percent fee on sold items, and remaining profits are turned over to the spouses club and funneled back into the

community.

Last year over \$17,000 in profits from the store was distributed into the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community, according to club president Michelle McLaughlin.

The store also donates items that go to places such as Iraq, the Czech Republic, and the American Red Cross.

Last year 50 boxes of clothes were donated and distributed to Iraqi children, and the store continues to donate items to Czech orphanages every month.

Cintron said the thrift store is looking for volunteers. She said the perks of giving your time include first pick of the merchandise, paid child care, and the satisfaction of giving back to the community.

The store, located in Bldg. 533, is having a 50 percents off sale through Sept. 27.

Q&A

How do you maintain healthy relationships during deployments?



Sgt. 1st Class Donnie Robinson
"Before deploying ensure your spouse is actively involved in all your financial aspects and that she is involved in the community."

Harvey Boas
"Constant communication, writing letters, e-mailing, sending pictures."



Lynnette Savedra
"I can help my daddy by staying strong and when my daddy is deployed... I help mommy stay strong by helping her watch my brother and sister."

Merlina Townsend
"Be a survivor, stay busy, think positive, keep all channels of communication open... Listen to your children and answer their questions honestly."



Staff Sgt. Carlos Lopez
"Make sure there are no money issues lingering after you leave ... (and) your spouse ... stays busy."

Lisa House
"Strong constant communication, prayer, stay active, e-mail with the family's daily events so that your spouse doesn't feel left out."



Master Sgt. Matthew Cervantes
"Stay in constant communication through e-mail and lie about what you are really doing there."

Pvt. Brandon Smith
"Communication, honesty, and be supportive."



School, new DFAC now open

School is open and college football fanatics are already claiming who will win the National Championship.

Rather than incite the masses and claim a champion (USC?, LSU?, Nebraska?), let's play some games (six or so) before we start claiming who will win the championship.

And, off to the column...

EUCOM Health Care Benefits Awareness Month

Last year EUCOM held its inaugural Health Care Benefits Awareness month and will sponsor this year's event in September.

Run by the EUCOM Health Care Coalition, its aim is to inform Soldiers and their Families about critical health care benefits and resources. The garrison will soon obtain promotional and informational material about health care resources and will distribute them throughout the community using all our means again to make you aware of the benefits available to you.



School is open

In the second year of school transition to our endstate, once again the registration

numbers have crept up again and we are close to maximum capacity in several of our schools.

We will receive the temporary classrooms for the Grafenwoehr Elementary School soon and the plan in place should avoid a repeat of 100 more kids falling in on the Grafenwoehr Elementary after the start of school.

I ask the entire community to stay alert as children walk to and from school. Parents are still responsible for their children but kids are kids. They are just as likely to dash out into the road as they are to stay on the sidewalks.

Please slow down and parents, you know your children best. If they are old enough to walk to school alone but are likely to stray from the path, take some time to get them safely to and from school.

NEW DFAC

On Aug. 30 Grafenwoehr opened its new dining facility next to the temporary middle school. We held the opening until we had sufficient Soldiers to use it. This 600-seat facility is another commitment to the Graf community provided by our tax dollars.

Along with opening this facility, we have changed who can use the Normandy (CSM Lawrence T. Hickey) DFAC. That DFAC will only be used by the Warrior Leaders Course staff and participants. It will be open and support only the students. When class is not in session, we will shut the doors. This plan is the only way we can provide dedicated

support to the WLC and open the new DFAC facility. The Garrison Grafenwoehr Dining Facility will open to all Garrison Grafenwoehr tenant units, Family members and Department of the Army civilians for the foreseeable future.

We will closely monitor usage rates and may have to change who can use the new DFAC, but for now it is available for patrons listed above.

Commissary

Most of the community is aware that we are opening the new Commissary at Grafenwoehr in conjunction with the new PX Sept. 26.

In preparation for that, we will have to close the current Grafenwoehr Commissary two days prior in order to move personnel, finish stocking, and train workers on new equipment. We will still have the Vilseck Commissary and the new Grafenwoehr Shoppette to provide groceries and needed items during this transition.

I appreciate your understanding of this situation and thank the commissary and the new PX for helping me to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Is your FRG working? If not, four key factors may be the reason why



JACEY ECKHART
On the Homefront

Last week I wrote about a troubling new study that found that Army wives whose husbands were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan committed higher rates of child neglect and abuse than their counterparts.

"Yeah," said one of my colleagues. "But aren't you people supposed to have support groups for that?"

I snapped the poor guy's head right off. Poor little fella. How was he to know that I always feel snappish when the subject of family support groups and family readiness groups comes up?

I'm especially dangerous when people think FRGs are supposed to be the easy cure for all that ails ya'. Maybe I should wear a sign.

The thing is, these groups are a great idea in theory. Every deploying command really ought to have a group of thoughtful, sensitive individuals helping each other through the hard times associated with deployment.

I think the powers-that-be picture groups of mommies with homemade cookies preventing child abuse and alcoholism and adultery left and right.

There is only one problem with this model: these command sponsored groups don't have many members anymore. Regardless of the reason, it's hard to get or give support if no one shows up.

So for years I've been of the opinion that we should trust in people's ability to find support and cookies on their own.

That is, until I read studies showing increased rates of whatever kind of pain we military families are going through. Then I get worried and start wondering whether those formal support groups really could help some of these isolated spouses.

So this time I went to a real expert to talk it all over. Not only has Cindy Frano has been a

military spouse for more than 20 years, recently she has been part of a group at Naval Air Station Pensacola that successfully revived both the Officers' Spouses' Organization and the Pensacola Enlisted Support Group. The groups have a combined total of more than 400 active members so far.

Why are these groups working when so many groups have folded? Cindy pointed out that they have four things working for them in Pensacola that have helped them get going:

1. Location, location, location.

Not the location of the meetings, it is the location of the base. Many spouses are only stationed in Pensacola for a few months during a training school or for a single tour.

Some spouses decide not to work during such a short period, so they have more available hours to meet with other people. Also, they are less likely to have already formed long-term friendships so they are more open to meeting others.

2. Live or die on the 'net.

Sociologists say that these young spouses are part of a generation that Googles you long before they really want to know you. Cindy swears by the Spouse Hub program available for free on CinCHouse.com. Cindy says she frequently gets letters from people who didn't attend meetings but keep checking the Web site to stay up to date.

3. Make it broader, not bigger.

In the past, support groups were sponsored by individual commands. In a lot of places that is the way it still works. But in Pensacola, spouses were invited to attend regardless of their service member's command. Cindy says they started with a core group of women who wanted to get together and picked up other folks along the way from many different commands.

4. Listen carefully to what spouses want.

In Pensacola, spouses don't attend one big anonymous group that spends all their time talking about raising money and Robert's Rules of Order. Instead there are 14 smaller groups that get together. These subsets offer

book clubs or lunch bunch or moms groups or whatever the spouses want to do. They even have a group that goes antiquing together.

Sounds good to me. The way I look at it, the more people you have doing different activities, the more chance you have of finding a friend with whom you have a lot in common.

I won't swear that an antiquing group or a playgroup will prevent child abuse, but I cannot deny that these women in Pensacola have managed to start something good—a way to start real relationships between real people. Good on 'em.

A 19 year military wife, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist for CinCHouse.com and the author of "The Homefront Club" (Naval Institute Press 2004).

National Suicide Prevention Week

The IMCOM Army Substance Abuse Program will focus garrison support on local ASAP participation in the observance of the 2007 National Suicide Prevention Week Sept. 9-15 and World Suicide Prevention Day Sept. 10, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization.

Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of all deaths in the U.S., the third leading cause of deaths among individuals between the ages of 15-24, and the fourth leading cause of death among active duty Soldiers, following privately owned vehicle accidents.

The toll that suicidal ideation, gestures, and behavior have on Soldiers, DA civilians, and their Family members is enormous.

The impact on the Army Family includes emotional turmoil, alcohol, and drug abuse, and lost productivity at work. Ultimately, the consequences of suicide negatively affect mission readiness.

During this week, I encourage you to focus on promoting innovative suicide prevention efforts designed to increase awareness of this public health problem, promote help-seeking for persons at risk, and improve coordination and collaboration between garrison human service activities.

John A. Macdonald
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Commanding General

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Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

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WHY WE SERVE

Air Force NCO shares his views on service

by JOHN J. KRUZEL
American Forces Press Service

A 17-year Air Force veteran who led vehicles more than 20,000 miles across Kuwait and Iraq during 18 missions — rolling over streets often flanked with armed insurgents and littered with roadside bombs — is sharing the message of his service with the American people.

Tech. Sgt. Howard L. Watkins served as a convoy commander with the 70th Medium Truck Detachment based at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Through the Defense Department’s “Why We Serve” speakers program, he carries the lessons of his military experience and shares them with the American public at speaking events across the country.

One night, a 155 mm homemade artillery round strapped to a propane tank detonated next to a civilian truck attached to Watkins’ convoy. “That truck was completely engulfed in flames in 20 seconds,” he recalled.

Watkins ran to the burning truck to rescue victims inside. He and a fellow airman found the truck driver, who suffered wounds to his head and torso in the blast, and moved him away from the truck.

Mindful that his team was vulnerable to ambush while standing still, Watkins got the convoy moving again, calling for medical assistance for the injured driver on the radio while coordinating the vehicles to drive toward safety.

“One of the great things about my job when I deploy as a convoy commander is that I have a great feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment,” he said.

“When you go on deployment like this most recent one, you develop an immensely strong bond with the people that you’re working with. You really are dependent on these people for your life,” he said.

The story of Watkins’ first step into service begins like many others. His small hometown — Seligman,

Mo., which boasts a population under 1,000 — presented few job opportunities. As a high school senior, Watkins’ ambition stretched as far as graduation, but not much further. He lacked direction, he said.

“About a quarter of the way through my senior year, I knew I wanted to get out of the area. The military seemed like the best way to go,” said Watkins, who decided to enlist in the Army and follow the footsteps of his father, who served in the 101st Airborne Division during the World War II.

“But when I went to the recruiting station in Joplin, Mo., of course they’ve got all the different branches of service next to each other,” he said. “I got there right around lunch time, and both the Air Force and Army recruiter were going to eat at the same time.

“The Army recruiter just sort of looked at me and passed me by, whereas the Air Force recruiter was the one that actually stopped and

talked to me,” Watkins said. “I remember his name and everything. It was Tech. Sergeant Fitzner.”

The decision to join the Air Force has worked out for Watkins. He was named Air Combat Command’s transportation noncommissioned officer of the year for 2006.

He has earned the Bronze Star Medal, three Air Force Commendation Medals and three Air Force Achievement Medals.

“I believe that everything happens for a reason,” Watkins said about his decision to join. “I was probably an easier sell to the Army recruiter,” he joked, “if he hadn’t been quite as hungry that day.”

Watkins is one of eight service members who have served overseas in the war on terrorism who are traveling throughout the U.S. to speak to community groups and businesses in the “Why We Serve” public outreach program. The program was initially the



Tech Sgt. Howard L. Watkins

idea of Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and began in the fall of 2006.

Eight service members, two from each branch of the military, are chosen to participate in the program each quarter.

101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign draws to a close

by LORI YERDON
U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

Labor Day marks the end of the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign, but the emphasis on safe practices - both on and off duty - will remain.

“Traditionally, Labor Day weekend marks the end of summer,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center.

“There’s usually increased exposure to outdoor activities and

travel, and Soldiers and their Family members should make every effort to ensure that their holiday weekend is safe,” he said.

Four Soldiers lost their lives to accidents during last year’s Labor Day holiday. Three of the accidents occurred in privately owned vehicles and one was fire related.

“The loss of even one Soldier is unacceptable,” said Glidewell. “If Soldiers take advantage of the programs and tools that the Army offers and apply composite risk management into their daily

activities, they may decrease their chance of becoming an accident statistic.”

To date, overall POV fatalities are down nine percent from last year. Army safety officials attribute this feat to a combination of factors including engaged leaders and Army tools such as the Travel Risk Planning System, Motorcycle Mentorship Program and POV Toolbox.

“TRiPS is an invaluable tool that helps individuals plan for a long holiday weekend or road trip,” said

Lt. Col. Roy Templin, driving task force chief, USACRC. “Additionally, this effective tool provides leaders with recommendations and insights into their Soldier’s travel plans in order to protect the Army’s most valuable asset, its personnel.”

One of the Soldiers killed last Labor Day weekend was a passenger in a vehicle operated by another Soldier. The driver lost control of the vehicle while trying to negotiate a turn and it rolled.

The passenger was not wearing a seat belt and died at the scene. The

driver fled the accident scene and was found later, legally intoxicated.

“Drinking and driving is not an option that anyone, civilian or military, should ever consider,” said Templin. “The battle-buddy concept should not only apply to the battlefield. Soldiers need to look out for each other off duty as well.

“Even with the commitment our Army takes to educate and train Soldiers on all safety-related issues,” he said, “ultimately the decision lies with the individual Soldier to ‘Never Give Safety a Day Off.’”

SUV and pickup fatalities on the rise in Army

by TAYLOR BARBAREE
U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

Compared to 19 fatalities recorded in fiscal 2006 involving sports-utility vehicles and pickup trucks, to date in fiscal 2007, the Army has experienced an increase in the number of fatalities involving these types of vehicles.

At the halfway point of this fiscal year, according to the Army database, there have been 50 fatal POV off-duty accidents claiming the lives of 54 Soldiers.

Of this number, 24 accidents included SUV and truck fatalities.

“The increase in pickup truck and SUV fatalities is proportional to the increase in the number of registrations the Army is experiencing and ales (nationally) of these types of vehicles,” noted Walter Beckman, deputy of driving task force, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. “One

reason the Army may be seeing this increase is because Soldiers have more disposable income coming out of theater and are buying the bigger more expensive SUVs and pickups.”

Beckman’s explanation of the number of SUV fatalities coincides with the number of increased vehicle registration’s being recorded at Army posts.

The Army’s Office of the Provost Marshal General indicates there were 71,573 SUVs registered in 2006, a 21 percent jump from 56,826 registered in 2005.

Risk assessment, however, is one of many Army resources equipping Soldiers for potential hazards such as POV accidents.

“Risk assessments are paramount in preventing our Soldier from becoming another horrific statistic,” said USACRC Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell. “It is my hope, as engaged leaders, that we will encourage those within our ranks to use the programs and tools that the Army has to offer such as the Trave Risk Planning System.”

The Army’s TRiPS program is one of the

tools that combat the hazards associated with operating POVs.

TRiPS offers key features such as encouraging dialogue between supervisors and subordinates. This allows them the opportunity to discuss the planned trip, the risks involved, and how to control those risks with the Soldier.

Since its inception, Soldiers have completed more than 2.3 million assessments.

Of those people who completed the assessments, four have been killed with only two of those actually operating the vehicle. Soldiers complete roughly three to five thousands assessments a day.

Because of programs such as TRiPS, in comparison to two to three years ago, the Army is seeing positive results, such as fewer fatalities involving off-duty accidents.

However, these numbers are not acceptable to the Army.

“One is too many, especially if it your battle buddy or loved,” said Glidewell.

“Our statistics indicate that our younger Soldiers are more at risk when it comes to off-duty accidents involving SUVs,” Glidewell added. “We must all continue stepping up and helping fellow Soldiers make the right decisions.

“If we continue to do this,” he said, “we’ll be more successful in reducing loss and remaining Army Strong.”

“One reason the Army may be seeing this increase is because Soldiers have more disposable income coming out of theater and are buying the bigger more expensive SUVs and pickups.”

Walter Beckman
USACRC



Dear Demetrius,
I read your article regularly and love it! I have made changes in my exercise and also my eating habits. I understand that lifting weights is a good thing, but I feel funny around the typically “men’s”

area.
I feel as though I am being looked at and judged. I honestly do not have a question I just wanted to express my thoughts, share my progression and tribulations with your Bavarian News advice.

*“Progressing Well,”
Diane*

Dear Diane,
I am exceedingly pleased that you find this column beneficial. Lets talk a minute about this phobia of the free weights area. Like many phobias I must say that this may just be in your head.

I can only explain by asking you to keep in mind that men (or women) may be looking in your direction but not necessarily at you. They could be waiting for the weights or bench you are using or admiring your drive to

be healthier.
I could go on and on with possible reasons, but you are not the only individual with these feelings. A gym called Curves successfully runs off of these feelings you have by making their gym exclusive to women, having no mirrors and no free weights.

The bottom line is that you cannot let others prevent your healthier lifestyle.

If you do not overcome this phobia

today, tomorrow it will be people judging you when you are grocery shopping. These feelings can prevent the goals you are looking for.
Good Luck!

Demetrius

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to usaggnews@EUR.army.mil. Demetrius is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.

HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT

BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

Job fair offering up to 150 jobs at Landstuhl tomorrow, Friday

LRMC Public Affairs

Up to 150 job vacancies at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center will be featured at a job fair from noon to 6 p.m. tomorrow and Friday at the LRMC Leaning Center, Bldg. 3718. The intent of the job fair is to eliminate any potential barriers to the hiring process for U.S. citizens seeking employment with a globally recognized employer with competitive compensation, said Capt.

Alejandro Gonzales, deputy chief of resource management for LRMC. “We want to streamline operations and provide a quicker time line for employers and candidates. This has the potential to be something great to help job seekers in joining the dynamic LRMC team,” said Captain Gonzales. The job openings are for National Security Personnel System, formerly known as General Schedule or GS, positions. The job openings include

physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses, practical nurses, lab technicians, receptionists, medical coders, supply technicians, mail clerks, administrative staff and many other positions. The job fair will be organized to expedite and assist job seekers, said Captain Gonzales. Visitors will be greeted and provided the list of job openings and related booths where they can speak with representatives for each position.

For those wanting to apply for a job, computers and representatives from Army Community Service will be on hand to assist with resumes. Attendees interested in applying will be asked to self-nominate for jobs in the Civilian Personnel online personnel system before leaving if they haven’t already done so. All job candidates should bring copies of their resume, passport, PCS orders (as applicable) and government

ID card (as applicable). Those applying for registered nursing positions must bring a copy of their RN license. Individuals requesting veterans preference must bring a copy of their DD Form 214 and/or VA letter if a disabled veteran. Candidates claiming prior federal service, to include prior Non-Appropriated Fund service, must provide a copy of their last personnel action.

Women’s equality, efforts considered at EO luncheon

by BILYANA ATOVA
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community celebrated Women’s Equality Day with a small exhibit, lunch, and a guest speaker at the Tower View Restaurant Aug. 22. Women’s Equality Day is observed in honor of women’s continuing efforts toward full equality and marking of the U.S. Constitution’s 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote in 1920, the culmination of a 72-year-long civil rights movement.

“Let us talk about not just women, but the privilege of all of us to vote and the importance of your vote that can make such a difference,” said guest speaker Sylvia Durcholz-Wilheim, the Equal Employment Opportunity Program Manager for the U.S. Army- Europe, and 7th Army. Wilhelm highlighted some of the most important moments in American history regarding women’s equality during her speech. She mentioned some of the lesser known reasons legislators fought women’s right to vote, including the fact that women were cited as

“hysterical, too emotional, or had smaller brains.” “People think some rights are given, they take them for granted, but men and women fought for them so we can have them today,” said Sgt. First Class Jacqueline Galloway, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Equal Opportunity adviser and event organizer. “It was not just women,” said Galloway, “but men also helped us to win the right to vote.” Wilhelm also identified the importance of voting as a way to resolve obstacles, including the issue that women average \$0.77 for every

\$1 a man earns and the fact that 70 million women do not have health care insurance. “Let’s be women and men of action and make our voice heard,” Wilhelm said. She noted that the challenges women in the West face today are different than those of previous generations, adding that women should stand up for those who still do not have rights. She said she really admires military spouses because of their choices, strengths, and challenges, especially in relation to employment. “Some of them can never establish

a career (following their spouses),” she explained. One should acknowledge that the previous generations of men and women had a tremendous impact and worked so hard toward achieving equality. But is equality possible? “The Equal Rights Amendment still has not been ratified,” Wilhelm said “and there are men and women who are against it.” The amendment, first proposed in 1923, is still not a part of the U.S. Constitution, being ratified by only 35 of the 38 necessary states for it to become the 28th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Old Timer’s Car Rally cruises through Grafenwoehr, gives community a glimpse into the classic past

by KATIE COWART
Assistant Editor

The 17th Old Timer’s Car Rally passed through the city of Grafenwoehr and the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Aug. 25. The annual event, which starts in the city of Kemnath, shows off many older car models, most of which date from the 1930s to the 1970s. This year, over 200 cars participated in the rally. The cars were driven from Kemnath through two other towns before finally stopping the middle of Grafenwoehr to be put on display for the afternoon. This route makes a pattern known as the Four City Triangle, explained Gerald Morgenstern, one of the event organizers and the second mayor of the city of Grafenwoehr. Morgenstern said that all of the participants enjoyed taking the route that led them through the Grafenwoehr Training Area. “It is a big event to drive through and see the history,” said Morgenstern. “It was a highlight to be able to go on post. It also gives the Soldiers

a chance to see the old cars that are not so common anymore.” He said that although the cars passed through the garrison, most of the Soldiers that came to see the cars visited them when they were set up in downtown Grafenwoehr. He wished that more could have come out to see the cars since so many of the vehicles were American models. He also went on to explain that history of the surrounding area plays a big role in the rally each year. “Every year (the event organizers) choose a place to go through and learn the history of the area” he said. “This year they choose the Grafenwoehr Training Area, which dates back to 1910. “ After the cars passed through the installation, they completed the first round of the trip in the downtown area of the city of Grafenwoehr. Morgenstern said that they were able to set up the cars, motorcycles, and even a few World War II era jeeps on display for a couple of hours to let participants view the vehicles.

While the cars were on display, owners were also able to go through Grafenwoehr’s Military and Culture museum in the city center. Morgenstern also noted that many of the drivers took the time to visit some of the local guest houses for refreshments before embarking on their journey back to Kemnath. He said that a Cadillac El Dorado from Switzerland is believe to be the vehicle that traveled the farthest for the rally—a record 500-600 kilometers. “It’s a big event for them. They go where the rally is,” he said. Overall Morgenstern said the rally was a success and community support was excellent. “The Kemnath organizers were very happy to have good organization,” he said. “The fire department (from the city of Grafenwoehr), even police from Eschenbach and post MPs helped out, which was very good.” He mentioned that a motorcycle involved in the rally broke down on post, but the U.S. Army military policemen were very helpful in taking care of it and keeping the rally on track.

Cash bonuses upped to \$2K for successful referral of future Soldiers

Army News Service

Bonuses have doubled to \$2K for Soldiers and retirees referring future Soldiers to the Referral Bonus Pilot Program. Active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, and Army retirees, are eligible for the referral bonus. Soldiers working in the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program, Special Recruiter Assistance Program, Active Duty for Special Work Program or the Future Soldier Training Program are also eligible if the prospective Soldier has not already met with a recruiter. The bonus is not paid to Soldiers referring members of their immediate Families, to include spouses, children, parents, stepparents and siblings. Referrals should be made through the Army Referral System - Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team Web site at www.usarec.army.mil/smart. An Army Knowledge Online user name and password are required to use the site, at which Soldiers must first establish a user account to make a referral. Users will be asked to submit such personal information as their social security number to facilitate payment. Referrals may also be made at (800) 223-3735, ext. 6-0473. The bonus is paid in two lump sums. The first half is paid when the Soldier begins basic training, and the second half is paid after the Soldier graduates from One-Station Unit Training or Advanced Individual Training. There are no retroactive provisions to the change. Sponsors who provided referrals before Nov. 13 are only eligible for the \$1K bonus.



Photo by Bilyana Atova
More than 200 cars, one from as far away as Switzerland, participated in the annual event, which covered the Four City Triangle.



Photo by Paula Guzman
Grafenwoehr’s second mayor Gerald Morgenstern helped organize the event.

Don’t forget to tell them you read it in the Bavarian News.
Pick up the next edition Sept. 19.

EFMP providing special needs support

Survey: Americans prefer local restaurants and bars for leisure, frequently use German post offices and banks



Photos by Paula Guzman

Sophomore Christina Greene, 15, sees her friend for the first time in two months and greets her with a warm embrace during their first day back to a newly remodeled Vilseck High School Aug. 27.



Members of the girls volleyball team gather in front of Vilseck High School on the first day of the 2007-2008 school year. The team was waiting for the bus that would take them to the Hill Top gym for their first practice of the season.



The Meyer family - Jason, 4-year-old Alex, and Sgt. 1st Class Alena - greet daughter and sibling 6-year-old Ariel after her first day of school at Vilseck Elementary Aug. 27.



First grader Armando Medina, 6, sports his new camouflaged bookbag at Vilseck Elementary Aug. 27, his first day back to school.



Abbey Neely sings the Star Spangled Banner with classmates at Grafenwoehr Middle School Aug. 27.



Never too old for kisses, seventh grader Austin Siefle, 13, receives a smooch from mom Claudia Smith Aug. 27 outside Grafenwoehr Middle School.



Aided by signs, Grafenwoehr Elementary teachers lined up their students Aug. 27, the first day of the 2007-2008 school year.

Photo by Bilyana Atova

Experience

2007

OKTOBERFEST



by **CHARLIE COON**

Stars & Stripes European Edition

Oktoberfest. Like a big frat party, right? Kind of. Yes, there are huge festival halls known as “beer tents” filled with **partiers of all ages** who sing and dance and wear silly clothes. And beer is served, most definitely; about 6.1 million liters in 2005, according to festival officials.

But Oktoberfest is **a lot like a state fair**, too. There are bunches of rides, including some outrageous ones, plus games and vendors, and even a decent selection of haunted houses. Sure, the carnival barkers are barking in German. But, hey, it’s in Munich, not Iowa.

Bottom line: Oktoberfest has both a great **carnival atmosphere** that’s **family-friendly** and ample venues for those seeking to join in on an **international beer bender**.

This year, the festival runs from Sept. 22 until Oct. 7. Admission is free and so is the

pageantry, including parades on many of the days, usually in the morning. Everything else costs Euros.

Adventure-seekers can try high-speed, high-altitude rides the likes of which are rarely seen at the county fair back home.

Those chairs that hang by chains, spinning around like a **merry-go-round**? Try it at more than 100 feet in the air and hope the chain doesn’t break.

There are several roller coasters, and the Freefall speaks for itself.

But the ultimate ride is the Cyberspace, back at Oktoberfest for a third time.

This giant pendulum rocks riders back and forth, higher and higher into the sky, like a kid being pushed on a swing set. Finally it reaches its **150-foot zenith** and goes over the top, sending riders plummeting face-first to the earth and back up again, then plummeting and back up again.

Afterward, blown-away riders stumble out of their seats. A G-force of 4-6 will do that.

“That was amazing, [expletive] amazing,” one Aussie said in 2005 year **as he wiped away his tears**.

“It’s worth it,” Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeremy Turman of St. Mawgan, England, said last year after paying 7 Euros for the

experience.

“These rides seem more dangerous than any in any country we’ve been in,” he added.

There are a few new features this year, according to fest spokeswoman Gabrielle Papke, including a new **haunted house** and a water-raft ride that is nearly 70 feet high.

Not that Oktoberfest needed more attractions.

For many, the main draw is the festival’s 14 beer tents. Most hold from 5,000 to 10,000 people, inside and out. Three of the tents serve **alcohol-free beer**.

While people can go to the fest for free, once inside it’s easy to blow money.

Last year, a 1-liter beer topped out at 7.50 Euros (this year a *Mass* will range from 7.70 to 8 Euros), and rides cost between 1.50 and 7 Euros.

Sausage or fish on a roll and other food offerings run between 2 and 6 Euros, while inside the beer tents, full meals of oxen or schnitzel plus side dishes cost 8.50 Euros and up.

Games of chance were 2 to 3 Euros. **There is so much to see**, one doesn’t need to spend a thing to have a great time. Budget-minded people could probably even bring in their own food and drink.

Munich isn’t down the street from any U.S. installation.

So service members, dependents, and U.S. civilians have to travel to the festival grounds, the Theresienwiese, to join in the fun. But it’s doable.

For those who have cash or credit and are less constrained by time, Munich is quite reachable **by train or car**.

Hotel rooms are hard to find but usually available with some searching. They won’t be found next door to the festival, and this time of year, they might be expensive.

Public transportation or taxis can get you from the hotel to the fest.

The outdoorsy who have a few days off can try camping at the nearby site in Munich-Thalkirchen. There one will find young people from all over the world — passed out. The **camping is all-inclusive; tents can be rented**. Check ahead for availability. And be prepared for rain.

Beer serving times are 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The tents close at 11:30 p.m. daily, but two wine tents stay open until 1 a.m. Weekdays at Oktoberfest are usually less crowded than weekends.

‘Thank you’ for the warm reception

Good day to all. As everyone can confirm, moving can be a challenge, but I must say that the community has made that transition for Maja and I easy. From the day we arrived we have received nothing less than a warm welcome from everyone we meet.



We both wish to thank everyone in the community for making our move an easy one. As all of you may now know, Maja and I were recently married and I want to thank all of you for your words of congratulations, especially Lt. Col. Bloomberg for his kind words in the last edition of the Bavarian News. As I make my way around the community I see why Hohenfels has a great reputation as the facilities are top notch and customer service is outstanding. I have seen a great deal of

flexibility in the workforce to ensure Soldiers and Family members are taken care of which shows me that Hohenfels is a close knit Family which Maja and I are very happy to be a part of. Hohenfels is a very busy community and after looking at the calendar I see it will get faster before it gets slower, but when the opportunity allows personal or Family time take advantage of it. Hohenfels is located in a great start point for travel and centered to an array of off post siteseeing, dining, and fests, to mention a few.

Along with the numerous on post events there is no reason to become a homebody. Get out and enjoy your time with family and friends, don't miss out. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome back Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment from their deployment. Thank you and your Families for their service in the war on terrorism. I just want to assure you that the USAG Hohenfels is here to service your needs and make your reintegration easy. Also, to Alpha Company, 1st

Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, be safe and look out for each other. You are in our thoughts. Come home safely. Again, thank you for making our transition to Hohenfels an easy event. We are pleased to be a part of this community and I look forward to meeting all of you as I continue to make my way around.

*CSM Perry Clark
USAG Hohenfels*

Community welcomes home Team Blackfoot

by GARRY BARROWS
Bavarian News

The weather was rainy and overcast, but the atmosphere was one of happiness and pride for the accomplishments and dedication of Team Blackfoot, made up mostly of Soldiers of Company B, 4th Infantry Regiment. These were the conditions Aug. 21 when the Hohenfels community gathered at the Warrior Field parade ground to welcome back their Soldiers. Team Blackfoot was deployed to Zabul Province in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for a six-month tour of duty in direct support of the 812th Romanian Infantry

Battalion during which more than 300 combat patrols were conducted. In addition, the unit was engaged in more than 50 direct enemy engagements. In all during the tour, 31 members of the team earned awards for valor. The unique abilities of the team were inspired by personnel from each of the 1-4 companies plus mortar men and mechanics from the 1st Armored Division, military intelligence staff from USAREUR G-2, Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists from the Navy, and a Joint Tactical Air Control team from the Air Force. "In execution, Team Blackfoot represented a joint unit in a combined effort that represented

the best in Europe," said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. John Lange. In the midst of the celebration of the return of Team Blackfoot, the sobering reality of war was present as a moment of remembrance was held for the two unit members who were lost during the deployment. Cpl. Connor Masterson was killed April 8 by a roadside bomb and Cpl. Zachary Endsley died as a result of injuries caused by indirect fire July 23. Joint Multinational Readiness Center Commander Col. Thomas S. Vandal was enthusiastic in his praise of the success of the team in noting "the Soldiers standing before us are truly America's patriots and are certainly

deserving of our nations' gratitude for their commitment to defending our freedom and the security of the people of Afghanistan." Vandal was also quick to note the importance of support from family and friends that allows our Soldiers to concentrate more completely on the task at hand. "As every Soldier knows, our ability to focus on the mission, and our unit morale, is directly affected by the support that we receive from the home front. Certainly, the FRGs and Family members not only provided the Soldiers with the support necessary to see the mission through, but took care of each other in the absence of their Soldier over this past year," Vandal said.

West Point CTLT cadets train at Hohenfels with 1-4 Inf. troops

by Capt. JUNEL JEFFREY
JMRC Public Affairs Officer

The Hohenfels community experienced new additions—four to be exact—as cadets from the Military Academy at West Point joined 1-4 Infantry Battalion for a month of rough and tough training in Warrior Country. Cadets John Case, Erik Hamilton, Adam Jannetti, Adam Jarmusz, and Anthony Winkels traveled to Hohenfels as part of the Cadet Troop Leadership Training program. CTLT, organized through the U.S. Army Cadet Command, places third-year cadets in a position normally occupied by a second lieutenant in order to develop leadership skills within the confines of day-to-day unit. While Cadet Jannetti expected to gain a good understanding of infantry platoon operations, he also benefited from seeing the dynamic between the officers and enlisted Soldiers. "I met some great Soldiers and officers. I really enjoyed being a part of 1-4," he said. "I enjoyed hearing about their lives and the things they face, but more importantly, I liked hearing everything they had to teach me," he said. "I made up my mind to be in the military after September 11," said

Cadet Jannetti. "I want to give back to the country." And these cadets are doing just that. As they enter their senior year at West Point, each cadet is nearing the end of trainee life and preparing to accept a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Cadet Case, who always wanted to join the military, said his experience at 1-4 Infantry gave him the opportunity to see what a platoon does. "I spent a good deal of time around the Soldiers of White Tank," Case said. "It was a great experience to see how Soldiers interact with the platoon leader and with each other. They treated me like a PL, yet knew that I was very inexperienced." Cadets got a chance to see and experience life in the Warrior Battalion, a dual mission infantry battalion, as the opposing force during several Mission Rehearsal Exercises and Squad Training Exercise lanes at the Hohenfels Training Area. "This helped me focus on what tasks and skills that are important for platoon leaders to understand," said Hamilton, who decided to join the military after September 11. "Seeing common problems that occurred to all units that are participating in anti-insurgent activities was a great experience," he said.


Winkels, who has two years of prior military service, said the Soldiers of 1-4 Infantry eagerly taught him and gave great feedback. "I felt like the Soldiers were well trained and they wouldn't let me fail," said Winkels. "Their experience emphasized their training." A platoon leader with Company D, 1st Lt. Anthony Williams sought to give the cadets the opportunity to see what the Army is facing in today's war against terrorism. "This experience here gave them knowledge on how insurgents are operating in theater and something they can take with them to pass on to other cadets," said Williams. "This program gives them the opportunity to see what's ahead of them and how they want to lead as junior officers," he said. The cadets didn't spend all of their time in the training area. In experiencing the well-rounded life of a Soldier, cadets used their time to explore cities like Munich, Regensburg, Stuttgart, and even went to Prague, Czech Republic. "My experiences helped me to keep my motivation level high and to see light at the end of the tunnel at West Point," Case said. "I definitely learned a lot. When I get commissioned, I definitely want to go combat arms and go to an atypical post in the Army."



Cadet John Case in The Box as Opposing Forces



Cadet Erik Hamilton in The Box as Opposing Forces



Ani

Feline Fancy

The Hohenfels Vet Clinic offered free exams during the Health and Job Fair Aug. 23 at the CAC.

Photo by Maj. Boris Brglez

Look for the Bavarian News online at www.milcom.de



An unidentified couple reunite after a redeployment ceremony at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels last month. The Soldier was a member of Team Blackfoot, made up mostly of Soldiers of Company B, 4th Infantry Regiment. The unit was deployed for six months to Zabul Province in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Hohenfels' PX Manager Sam Shinault helps hand out cake during the elementary school's Meet and Greet ice cream social Aug. 24. The social included a brief program in the theatre, a school open house, 3 p.m. ice cream social, and gave parents and teachers an opportunity to mingle.

Photo by Garry Barrows



U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels parents, students, and teachers gather at their respective schools to kick off the start of the new school year and get to know one another during an Aug. 24 Meet & Greet.

by **STEPHANIE HEADRICK**
PWOC President

Protestant Women of the Chapel is open to any woman who wishes to get together for praise and worship, fellowship, and in-depth Bible based studies.

Our theme this year is “Preparing for the Bridegroom.” Our hope is that all of our thoughts and actions come from this thought. We want to be prepared: prepared to give an accounting of what we have done for our Lord, and prepared to give an accounting of what Christ is doing in our lives, prepared to lov

We will accomplish this through fellowship, discipleship, and ministering to the needs of others. If you have not been a part of PWOC for awhile or at all come and check out what is going on!

We meet every Tuesday 9a.m.-noon at the Hilltop. The first Tuesday of the month we have a program called "Chick Flicks." This is primarily for fellowship time. We will cook together and then watch a movie on the big screen and discuss the Biblical principles we find in the film.

On the remaining Tuesdays (2nd-5th), we have Bible studies. We also meet every Wednesday night at 6-7:30p.m. at the Hilltop. The first Wednesday night of the month is our Program Night (our time for this program is 6-8:30p.m.), with speakers and fun things going on.

The remaining Wednesday nights are for those who cannot attend Tuesday mornings or would like additional Bible studies.

Our studies this fall are as follows:

Tuesdays

■ So You're a Christian, Now What? by Catherine Painter.

■ A Woman of Love- The Study of Ruth by Dee Brestin

■ Living Beyond Yourself: A study on the Fruit of the Spirit By Beth Moore.

■ Conversation Peace by Mary Kassian

Wednesdays

Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby

The 2007-2008 PWOC theme is “Prepare for the Bridegroom.” Supporting scripture verses for our theme is Matthew 25: 1-13, Ephesians 4: 11-13. The lamps, similar to the ones the virgins would have carried, remind us to continue to prepare for Christ’s return.

We must allow the “gifts” from Ephesians to prepare us for works of service to build up the body of Christ and mature us so that we will be ready. From these ‘prepared’ lamps shine one great light.

That light declares the presence of the Holy Spirit. It also represents that we are a light unto the world that draws others to Christ.

The Mission statement for PWOC is that “we exist to connect the women of God to do the work of God by developing leaders, evangelists, and disciples.”

Army Community Service & New Parent Support Program Presents

T M

Total Mom

FALL KICKOFF
SEPTEMBER 14th

"Shoulds,
Coulds, and
Woulds...
Oh my!"



A provocative and fulfilling time especially designed by Registered Nurses for
new mothers to obtain advice, support and activities like Improve your Marriage tips,
Infant Massage, Ask the Doctor, Exercise, etc AND it's different every week!

Every Wednesday from 9:30am -11:30am at the Family Life Activity Center, bldg 743

There'll be fun for the the little one too,



What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Cash cage temporarily closed

A/106th FMCo is temporarily closing down the cash cage in Vilseck. It will be closed through Sept. 16. The cage will re-open Sept. 17 at its new location, Bldg. 244 in Grafenwoehr (2nd floor).

CFC training held Sept. 18

It is time for CFC to begin again. We will be hosting a special training session for all CFC unit representatives on Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. in Grafenwoehr at Bldg. 244 Room 219. Training will last approximately an hour and a half.

CFC Campaign runs Oct. 1 through Nov. 30. POC is Ms. Christine Nunez, DSN 475-8432, e-mail: Christine.nunez@eur.army.mil.

Kontakt Club choir seeks new female singers

Germany’s only German-American Kontakt Club choir is always looking for new singers.

We sing everything from gospel to musicals. We would love it if you would come by and visit us Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Lutheran church right outside gate one, on Matin Luther Strasse in Grafenwoehr.

We sing for many different occasions on post and in Grafenwoehr. If you want to meet new people and like to sing, whether you are young or old, you are just right for us!

The rehearsals are held in German and English (director is American) and there are no auditions to sing with us. Contact Catherine Winter, director, for more information, at CIV 09156-96269.

Vilseck library helps ease deployment troubles

The Vilseck library has the tools for parents heading downrange to read and record stories on DVD/ VHS. Parents being deployed can leave behind a wonderful memory for their families.

For more information, visit the library or call DSN 476-1740.

Garrison school update

Information is available at each school Web site:

- <http://www.graf-es.eu.dodea.edu/>
- <http://www.vils-es.eu.dodea.edu/>
- <http://www.graf-ms.eu.dodea.edu/>
- <http://www.vils-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>
- School contact information:**
- GES: DSN 475-7133
- VES: DSN 476-2812
- GMS: DSN 475-9500
- VHS: DSN 476-2554
- Transportation: DSN 475-8954,
- Dates**
- Sept. 13 GES Open House at 6 p.m.
- Sept. 13 VES Open House, Kindergarten 4-4:30 p.m. and 1st-5th grades from 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 20 GMS Open House, 6 p.m.

Thrift Store holds sale

The GCSC Grafenwoehr Thrift Store will be holding a Back to School Sale for the entire month of September. All orange tag merchandise will be 50 percent off. Transformers are excluded. The Thrift Store is open Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. They are located in Bldg. 533.

Support Group for spouses of deployed Soldiers

Program is offered every last Thursday of the month, starting Sept. 27 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. It will be held at the Vilseck Chapel. Featured speaker, Chap. (Maj.) Darin Nielsen from the Family Life Center. Free childcare and lunch. If you attend program you can earn 25 miles for Operation Walk 4 Freedom. RSVP by Sept. 21. For more information, call DSN 476-3276 or CIV 09662-83-3276.

Protestant service held at Dick Hauter Lake

Grafenwoehr Protestant service is holding their Sunday service at Camp Heritage - Dick Hauter Lake in Grafenwoehr. There will be no service at the chapel. Service will start at 10:30 a.m. and there will be lunch catered by Metzgerei Specht and activities: Bouncy castle, Volleyball, canoes etc...weather permitting.

CYS hosts open gym

Starting in September, CYS will open the CDCs and SASs on Friday nights

until 9 p.m. and alternate opening two Saturdays a month between the Vilseck and Graf communities. The Teen Centers will also staff “Open Gym” on Saturday afternoons in both communities. For more information, call Central Registration at Graf: DSN 475-6656 or Vilseck: DSN 476-2760.

Military history club meets

Today, 6-7:30 p.m. at the USAG Grafenwoehr Library, the Graf Military History Club will hold a presentation and discussion on: “The Fall of Constantinople,” presented by Peter Mock. Open to all interested participants. There will be tea and pastries available to attendees. Contact Peter Mock, DSN 475-1540.

Operation Walk 4 Freedom kicks off this Saturday

The USAG Grafenwoehr MWR Sports & Fitness has teamed up with Health Promotion and will Kick off the “Operation Walk 4 Freedom” program with a “5Km & 10Km” Fun Run/Walk at Little Mike Lake on Rose Barracks in Vilseck. All participants will receive double miles for this event. Saturday, registration begins at 8 a.m. with the race beginning at 9:30 a.m. For more information contact Tracy Svalina, Health Promotion Coordinator at DSN 475-8433.

Military Family Life Consultants available

Military Family Life Consultants are available at ACS for the duration of the 2SCR deployments. Call CIV 0173-184-7209 or CIV 0152-0293-4290 to make an appointment. For more information, call the Vilseck ACS at DSN 476-2650.

CDC offers preschool options

Are you a stay-at-home parent looking for a morning preschool program for your child? In September, CYS offers the Part-Day Preschool program, which promotes creative activities and active learning, and the Pre-Kindergarten Enrichment program which teaches critical skills and reduces parental stress. To find out more, call the Graf Central Registration at DSN 475-6656 or CIV 09641-83-6656.

Behavior specialist to help during deployment

Child and Youth Services now have a Child Behavior Specialist available during deployment to aid Families. Call CYS Central Registration at Vilseck DSN 476-2760 or Graf DSN 475-6655.

Publication help for deploying units available

Are you newly deployed or preparing for deployment? Does your unit need access to the most up to date publications? Deployed and Predeployed publications support is provided by the United States Army Publication Distribution Center Europe. USAPDCE and the Army in Europe Publishing System provide the tools and support necessary to accomplish this task:

- Publication Management training
- Research Center
- Electronic publications and forms
- Requisition publications and forms
- Determine subscription requirements
- Subscribe to publications
- Research status of requisitions
- Track order history
- Create subaccounts
- Manage subscription listing
- Receive updates using Library
- Order quickly using Forms

Maintenance
Contact the USAPDCE Customer Service Team at: DSN 314-384-6881 / 6882 / 6883 / 6884, FAX 314-384-6894, Web address: <https://aepubs.army.mil>, or by e-mail customer.service.aepubs@eur.army.mil.

USAREUR Soldiers’ Chorus now seeking new musicians

The USAREUR Soldiers’ Chorus is currently seeking qualified musicians to fill immediate vacancies in the following areas:

- Male and Female Vocalists
- Keyboard Player
- Guitarist
- Bass Guitarist
- Drummer
- Audio Technician

If you are a Staff Sergeant or below in the Army, who can sing, play an instrument, or run professional audio equipment, you could qualify to join this talented team. During this two-year special duty assignment, you will travel

throughout Europe as a “Musical Ambassador” to thousands of Soldiers and civilians. Call the audition hotline at DSN 379-5034 or Commercial +49-6202-80-5034 today.

OCS slots still open

V Corps is still looking for 14 corps Soldiers who would like to attend Army Officer Candidate School, say corps personnel officials.

As part of an Armywide program of direct selection of OCS candidates, the corps was authorized to select 30 candidates in Fiscal Year 2007. Fourteen of those slots have already been taken.

The program gives Soldiers an opportunity to attend OCS via direct selection, rather than undergoing a board process, officials add. Each interested applicant compiles a packet consisting of items such as personnel records; security clearance information; an official photo and other items. That packet is reviewed by the corps commander and selections are made.

The deadline to apply for the program is Sept. 30. For more information, call the personnel actions branch of the V Corps personnel division at DSN 370-5748 or CIV 06221-575815.

Amberg holds 38th annual volksmarch Sept. 22-23

The Amberg annual volksmarch will be held Sept. 22-23 at the German school, located at Bruder Konrad Weg 1, in the Ammerriecht section of Amberg (on the road leading from Amberg to Hirschau - it will be clearly marked from all directions). The cost is € 1.50 for each start card (can be purchase at the start each day) and an additional € 2.30 will entitle each participant a stuffed white polar bear with a cap.

All ages are welcome. Special prizes will be awarded to the largest pre-registered participating groups. This is a great opportunity for military units to come out and possibly take home an addition group prize.

Assorted food items, both hot and cold, great german cakes and pasteries and assorted beverages both at the start/ finish, as well as along the route. The event is sponsored by the Wander and Volssportverein Amberg und Umgebung, e.V and will be hosted by the Amberg Oberbürgermeister Wolfgang Dandorfer.

For addition information contact Maria Schmidt at CIV 09621-15854 or Larry Simank, US Army Ret, CIV 09621-789274.

Time: Sept. 22, start from 8 a.m. to noon - completion by 4 p.m. Sept. 23, start from 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - completion by 3 p.m.

Distances: 5 km, 10 km, and 20 km.

Vilseck offers weekly Well Baby Wednesday

In response to the increased demand for Well Baby appointments in the Vilseck community, the Vilseck Health Clinic will start an initiative in September called “Well Baby Wednesdays.”

Each Wednesday, the clinic will run an all day Well Baby exam clinic. Of course, Well Baby exams will be available on other days for the convenience of the family. In addition, the ratio of same day appointments to pre-booked appointments will be changed from 70/30 to 50/50. This will allow more appointment slots to be opened up for pre-booked appointments. Scheduled exams for the well baby are at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 2 months, 6 months, (9 months), 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months and 48 months.

Parents that make these well baby appointments are encouraged to keep their appointments. Appointment No-Shows hurt your access to care and result in wasted time and resources and deny appointment opportunities to other patients. To avoid being a No-Show, call DSN 476-2936/2804 to cancel or reschedule your appointment.

Club Beyond kick off set

Club Beyond kicks off Tuesday for high school with a Gutter Sundae. Club starts at 7 p.m., dinner starts at 5:45 p.m. at Vilseck Chapel Fellowship Hall, Bldg. 218.

Middle School Club kicks off Sept. 12 with an evening of pizza and fun at Mega Play in Graf at 5 p.m. Mega Play is across from the Schwimmbad; call for directions.

Aretta Zitta, Community Director, aretta.zitta@us.army.mil, CIV 0160-9876-9678; Sally Burg, MS Director, sally.m.burg@us.army.mil, CIV 0175-969-7935.

Hohenfels Briefs

No kids allowed in vet clinic

Effective immediately no children under the age of eight years of age are allowed in the Veterinary Clinic IAW Command Policy A-04, Headquarters Northern Europe District Veterinary Command.

CYS hosts kids’ day

CYS National Kids’ Day will be Sept. 15, 1-4 p.m. in the School Age Services Bldg. 112.

Register now for Lost to Win

How much can your team Lose to Win in the 10 week weight loss challenge?

Registration runs until Sept.12. Program runs from Sept. 12 to Nov. 20. Three people per team For more information, contact DSN 466-2726 or CIV 09472-83-2726.

Protestant Woman of the Chapel kicks off today

PWOC would like to invite you to a wedding! Come join us for our Fall Kick-Off today, at 6 p.m. at the Nainhof Chapel where we’ll celebrate our theme for the year “Preparing for the Bridegroom”. Reception (dinner) will immediately follow at the Hilltop! Childcare is provided for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

Be sure to join us Tuesday mornings starting Sept. 11 from 9-11:30 a.m. for our weekly Bible studies. Childcare is provided! Choose between the following studies:

1. So You’re a Christian, Now What? Finding the Answers When You Don’t Even Know the Questions to Ask!
 2. Conversation Peace: The Power of Transformed Speech
 3. Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit
 4. Ruth: A Woman of Love
- There will also be a Wednesday evening study offered for those unable to attend during the day entitled “Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God (Revised edition)”. It will begin Sept. 12 also at the Hilltop.
- POC for these events is Gwen Eungard CIV 09492 601637.

Health Clinic changes

Due to a shortage of Doctors in the Health Clinic caused by a recent

deployment, we will implement the following changes between until Nov. 30:

1) All non-AD Soldier well women exams (PAPs) will be referred to our GYN provider in Burlangenfeld thru TRICARE.

2) The Clinic will not be able to see any Paid Patients: DoDDS teachers, USAG-H staffers, Contractors, etc (We will continue to see AD Soldiers, Dependents, retirees, reservists and Afghan soldiers) Thanks for your understanding and we will update our services when we return to full strength on Doctors.

USAG-H DFAC Closure

The USAG-H DFAC will be closed due to scheduled maintenance and repairs. We will resume business on Sept. 17 at normal business hours.

Teen center

The Teen Center, Bldg. 72 will be temporarily closed for renovation from Sept. 10-14. During this time, all Teen Center activities will be moved to the back of the CAC building.

Family fesitval set for Sept. 16

Family festival Sept. 16 from 1-5 p.m. at the King-Otto-Cave in St. Coloman near Velburg -especially for our American families- Fascinating program for young and old. From 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. our guides invite you to discover a fascinating world of drip stones underneath the earth .

Kids accompanied by their parents join the tour for free.

The following program is waiting for you :

- The magician of the mountain of witches expects you. Performances at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., if necessary in English
- Children are invited to enjoy a ride on a coach round the cave for free!
- At our flea market for kids you can buy and sell all kinds of things. Every kid taking part at the market gets a drink and French fries for free.
- At our button-machine you can make your own button! - Be creative and paint your own picture at the cave or bring along photos from you and your family, your pet.
- After your visit in the cave a lucky wheel is waiting for you.
- You can win a lot of prizes.
- Food and drinks are served by Mr. Schweiger and his team.

We are looking forward to your visit. For further information call CIV 09182 / 93020 or CIV 09182 / 2459.



ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

denvernuggets dancers

www.nba.com/nuggets/

MILE HIGH, HIGH-STEPPIN'

Join us for a night of dance with some serious altitude as the Denver Nuggets Dance Team take the stage for some fun, frivolity and high-stepping excitement. Chosen last summer to represent the NBA as goodwill ambassadors, this group of highly-regarded dancers has wowed audiences from Houston to Hangzhou, China.

Hohenfels Post Gym, Bldg. 88

Friday, Sept. 7 at 7:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU.

Tell us how you liked the show at www.armedforcesentertainment.com

PSA

What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Fitness programs

The Civilian Fitness and Walk to Iraq and Back programs offer free fitness assessments to anyone in the footprint interested in taking steps towards a healthier lifestyle.

The Civilian Fitness Program is a one-time, six-month offer for civilians and local nationals employed by the Army. Those who are enrolled receive three paid hours each week to devote to fitness.

The Walk to Iraq and Back program offers family members a chance to walk the miles to Iraq and back while their loved one is deployed.

The Walk to Iraq and Back kickoff event is scheduled for Saturday at Soldier’s Lake. Registration for the event is at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Anyone who would like to join one or both of the programs should contact Karen Lewis, Health Promotion and Well Being coordinator at Karen.a.Lewis@eur.army.mil for an enrollment packet or for more information.

Registration for the USAG Ansbach Civilian Fitness and Walk to Iraq and Back programs are tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Katterbach Fitness Center, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bunch Fitness Center in Illesheim.

Take Sachsen bypass

The mayor of Sachsen requests all drivers to take the bypass route of his town unless they have specific business in the downtown area. By drivers taking the bypass route, he hopes to alleviate the heavy traffic congestion the town is experiencing.

If you’re coming from Ansbach, you can access the bypass by following State Road 2223 from Ansbach to Windsbach that also leads to the Autobahn. Pass the first Sachsen exit and go on to the Sachsen/Volkersdorf/Lichtenau intersection, turn left and follow the signs to Highway B14.

If you’re coming from Katterbach on B14, turn right to Neukirchen and follow the signs to Lichtenau. When you come upon the Sachsen Bahnhof, take a left immediately after the overpass, and stay on the priority road until you reach State Road 2223 which will lead you to Ansbach.

Recycling center hours

The manned recycling center in Bleidorn Housing Area is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed on German holidays.

For more on the center, call DSN 468-7916 or CIV 0981-183-916.

Monthly substance abuse program offered Sept. 24-26

USAG Ansbach’s Army Substance Abuse Program offers a monthly Prime for Life class for community members. The three-day course gives people information on drug and alcohol use and how to determine their relationships with the substances.

The first course takes place Sept. 24-26 in the Army Community Service Classroom on the third floor of Bldg. 5817 on Katterbach Kaserne.

For more information, call DSN 467-2852 or CIV 09802-832-852.

ACAP update for spouses

Spouses of deployed service members are encouraged to attend a series of Army Career and Alumni Program briefings while their spouse is deployed if the service member is planning to separate from active duty shortly after re-integration.

Spouses should attend the same briefings that the service member would attend if he or she were in garrison, including pre-separation counseling, a job search workshop, and a Veterans Administration benefit briefing. Pre-separation counseling is by appointment.

The next Job Search Workshop is Sept. 11-12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Katterbach Dining Facility. Any Soldier within one year of ETS or two years of retirement may attend.

For more information or times and location of the job search workshop, call DSN 467-3312 or CIV 09802-833-312.

IG support in Schweinfurt

The Inspector general’s office in Wuerzburg is closed and people in the Ansbach community needing IG support should contact the Schweinfurt IG office.

You can call the IG office at DSN 353-8561 or CIV 0162-271-1751, or visit them at Conn Barracks in Bldg. 1 on the second floor.

Law school opportunity

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is accepting applications for the Army’s Funded Legal Education Program. Selected officers will attend law school beginning the fall of 2008 and will remain on active duty while attending law school. Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 to determine their eligibility.

This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain.

Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and is non-waivable. Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test.

Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer’s branch manager at AHRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Ms. Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before Nov. 1.

Interested officers from kasernes in Ansbach and Illesheim should contact Capt. John Merriam at the Ansbach Law Center at DSN 467-2476 or CIV 09802-83-2476.

Computer, phone help

The garrison recently implemented new procedures for getting help with computer, network and telephone issues.

Non-emergency help is available at the garrison Web page at: <http://www.ansbach.army.mil>.

Click on the “Online Support Request for Computer/Phone” button to request support. After clicking the button, look up your information if you already have an account or click on “Create Customer Record”.

The next screen lists the types of support provided and offers buttons for each one. Customers need to enter their computer name for most support request tickets. To find computer names, press and hold the Windows logo key and then press the Pause/Break key. A tabbed window will open. Click the Computer Name window and look at the Full Computer Name section.

Once customers submit a ticket they will receive an e-mail on their support request. Customers can view the status of their tickets by clicking “View customer’s tickets.”

For more information, call DSN 468-7951 or CIV 0981-183-951.

New clinic hours announced

The Katterbach Clinic’s new hours are weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except for Thursdays when the clinic staff trains in the morning. Operating hours for Thursdays are 12:30-4:30 p.m.

People needing immediate medical attention on Thursday mornings should go to the Ansbach Klinikum. Thursday afternoon appointments are same-day appointments for acutely ill patients only. The clinic is closed on all federal and training holidays.

Bamberg Briefs

CYS hosts Kinderfest

Bamberg CYS invites all children, youth and parents to the annual YS Kinderfest Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. at Bamberg School Age Services. No pre-registration required. Event is free.

See a Tae Kwon Do Demo, K-9 demo, face painting, arts and crafts, relay races and more. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. This event is held in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. For more information contact Patrice Turner-Lapp at DSN 469-8698.

Auditions to be held for “The Wizard of Oz” Sept. 18

Casting call! The Bamberg Stable Theater is holding auditions for the “Wizard of Oz” on Sept. 18 and 19 at 6:30 p.m. There are parts available for men and women of all ages, and kids ages 6 to 10 (small stature), and a few parts for kids 10 and up. Show dates to be determined.

FISC looking for members

The Franconia International Ski Club

is already dreaming of a white winter and is hosting a membership drive barbecue today at 6 p.m. at Kessler Field in Schweinfurt.

FISC sponsors weekend ski/snowboarding trips to some of the areas top destinations, and takes care of all the reservations for you. All you need to do is join FISC, pay the price and show up for departure. The first club meeting will be held in Schweinfurt at the Brauhaus Sept. 12 at 6 p.m.

The first Bamberg meeting is scheduled for Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. For more information contact Michelle at CIV 09721-475-8647.

Get fit at Boot Camp

Get fit during a boot camp style exercise class at the Freedom Fitness Facility every Monday starting at 6 p.m. Class instructors, Ayla and Kara, will put your body to the test during this two-hour fitness class. Class is eligible for OW4F miles and costs \$5 per session.

Commissary case lot sale

Stock up and save at the Bamberg Commissary fall Case Lot sales event Sept. 14 and 15. Product lists will be available at each cash register prior to the event. The event will take place during regular business hours.

Get to know Bamberg

Are you new to USAG Bamberg? If this is your first tour in Germany, then PEP is a “must”! Get to know the garrison and the town of Bamberg by touring the city with the ACS PEP program.

Free childcare is provided. PEP is free and the next session takes place Sept. 17 to Sept. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call Bamberg ACS at DSN 469-7777 for details.

HHC 16th SB FRG meets

The HHC 16th Sustainment Brigade family readiness group meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at Preston Hall. The next meeting will be Sept. 13. Special guest speakers and workshops are planned.

For more information contact Staff Sgt. Bradley at DSN 469-7150. Additional meeting dates are Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13.

Library offers Latino lunch

The Bamberg community Library will be hosting two Latino lunches to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Join the library staff Sept. 19 or Sept. 26 from noon to 1 p.m. for a fiesta of food samples.

Thrift Shop has new hours

The Bamberg Thrift Shop is now open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and the first Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stop by often and find great deals on gently used and new merchandise.

Call to make an appointment for consignment at CIV 0951-32408.

CMR hours change

Effective immediately, the consolidated mailroom customer service / package pick-up hours of operation will now be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then 3 to 6 p.m.

Closed on Federal Holidays. Customers can still access their mailboxes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information call Leland Samuels, Bamberg Postal Officer at DSN 469-7500.

Health clinic closure

The Bamberg Health clinic will be closed from noon to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 13. The clinic is closed from noon to 4:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month for mandatory staff training.

This also includes Physical Therapy, Social Work Services, and EDIS. All emergencies should go to the Bamberg Klinikum. Additional training dates include Oct. 11 and Nov. 8.

For more information contact the Bamberg Health clinic Executive Officer 1st Lt. Jose Sanfeliz at DSN 469-8619 or CIV 0951-300-8619.

Subway’s hours change

The Subway shop located in the Shoppette has new hours of operation beginning Sept. 15.

Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Contact Subway at CIV 0163-230-3222 for more information.

Get connected at Expo

The annual Bamberg Community Expo and Job Fair will take place Sept.

27 from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at the Basics Building. The Expo is the perfect opportunity to get you connected to all the programs, events and activities USAG Bamberg has to offer.

Community representatives will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about their products or services. If your club, organization or group would like to participate in this event contact MWR Marketing and Advertising by e-mail at mail.bam.mwr.expo20@eur.army.mil or call DSN 469-7747.

Substance abuse training mandatory for DA civilians

Department of the Army civilians (AF and NAF) must complete a minimum of two hours of substance abuse prevention training annually.

Bamberg ASAP is offering a course to fulfill this requirement Sept. 13 from 9 to 11 a.m. For more information call Darlene Copeland at DSN 469-7038.

ODR September trips

Take a trip this September with Bamberg Outdoor Recreation. Hit the trail during an Intermediate Mountain Bike trip (33K/4 hr ride) Saturday. Take the famous Tour under Bamberg on Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. Head to Palm Beach for Family Day Sept. 15.

Don’t miss the world’s biggest volksfest, Oktoberfest! ODR has two trips available, Sept. 22 and 29. Trips fill up quickly, so reserve your seat now. Contact the CAC for more information at DSN 469-8659.

Catholic news

■ The Catholic Chapel RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will begin meeting weekly in September. Adults or older Teens seeking Baptism, Confirmation or Holy Communion join us in this faith formation process. Also open to all Catholics who desire to learn more about their faith, the Sacraments and for fellowship. Contact Robin Rose for more information at robin.rose@yahoo.com.

■ Women interested in a day or evening meetings of the Catholic Women of the Chapel (also known as MCCW) contact Robin Rose at robin.rose@yahoo.com. A new group is forming for fellowship and faith study.

CFC-O unit coordinator

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas offers military members and DoD civilians serving far from home the opportunity to contribute to nearly 2000 charitable organizations. During 2006 campaign, USAG Bamberg raised \$82,442 for charitable organizations! The success of the campaign relies on dedicated volunteers at the unit level.

If you would like to “Make a World of Difference” and volunteer to serve as a CFC Unit Coordinator, contact Patrick Longfield at Patrick.longfield@eur.army.mil DSN 469-8071 or Barbara Baeuerlein at DSN 469-8651.

Training will be provided for all campaign volunteers Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. in the Post Briefing Room, Bldg. 7113. The campaign begins on Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

New Civilian Fitness starting

Fall Assessments for individuals wishing to start the Civilian Fitness Program will be conducted at the Freedom Fitness Facility Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sept. 21 from noon to 3 p.m. Once enrolled, DOD civilian employees are allowed three one-hour exercise sessions per week during normal work hours over a six-month period of time. For more information contact USACHPPM-EUR Health Promotion Coordinator Angela B. Hunter at DSN 469-7043 (Tuesday and Thursday) or DSN 354-6793 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday).

Schweinfurt Briefs

Medieval fest this weekend

Come to the Medieval Festival Saturday through Monday in downtown Schweinfurt along the old city wall. Festival runs 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, and 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday. Free transportation and refreshment vouchers will be provided by the city of Schweinfurt for U.S. ID card holders on Sunday and Monday.

Busses will leave every two hours on the hour starting at 2 p.m. from the Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz across from

Askren Manor entrance gate. Last bus back to the Volksfestplatz is at 8 p.m.

A Knight’s tournament will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the White Tower, follow by a children’s fencing event. More jousting and fencing fun will follow at 4 p.m. at the Philosophengang, next to the lake, at 4 p.m. If you miss out Sunday, the jousting and fencing fun will be repeated at the White Tower Monday at 4:30 p.m.

Chapel picnic held Sunday

Join the community parish picnic in cooperation with the Catholic, Protestant, and Gospel Congregations Sunday at Kessler Field in Yorktown Village from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Potluck event is open to ID card holders only.

Parental supervision is required for children under 12 years of age. Volunteers needed for food, set-up, clean-up, and coordination of games. Contact Jo Ann Bantillo at DSN 354-6250, CIV 09721-472-4748, or CIV 016346-10515.

TKS moves buildings

The Ledward Barracks TKS office has moved. Effective today, the on-post TKS office will be located in Bldg. 224.

Day trips to German markets

Travel with the Schweinfurt Arts and Crafts Studio to local German markets. Sunday visit Michelstadt Paper Market or Sept. 16 visit Lichtenfels Basket Market and stop at a flea market along the way. Transportation space is limited so sign up in advance. Call DSN 354-6903 or CIV 09721-96-6903 for more information.

Free transportation at MWR

The USAG Schweinfurt MWR will host another Family friendly trip, this time to Strasbourg, France, Saturday. Attendees must be U.S. ID card holders and must possess a tourist passport. The bus departs from the Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz and also from Wuerzburg. Call DSN 350-6305 or CIV 0931-889-6305 to sign up.

MWR street party set

The Schweinfurt Moral, Welfare & Recreation crew has put together one last summer street party for the community Sept. 15 from noon to 8 p.m. The fest hosts this year’s “Little Miss and Mister Schweinfurt” pageant from noon to 6 p.m. Donny Vox will be back supplying variety rock music from 6-8 p.m. The event is open to the community.

Shop safety class tomorrow

The Army Community Services’ “I can do it” success series is still going strong, and this month is offering a “Shop Safety” course tomorrow beginning at 1 p.m. at the Conn Barracks Auto Skills Center. Call DSN 354-6933 to sign up.

Rising Star starts Friday

The “Rising Star” competition will kick off with its first show Friday in the Abrams Entertainment Center at 7 p.m. The competition will continue every Friday night through Oct. 12.

Come cheer your Soldier, vote for your favorites, and win door prizes like “Rising Star” memorabilia or an MP3 player. For more information, call CIV 0162-296-2776.

Fall Aerobathon held Sept. 15

Come jump start your fall workout routine with the USAG Schweinfurt Fall Aerobathon Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Finney Fitness Center. Come try out yoga, step circuit training, spinning, Pilates, and kickboxing as part of this free event. All participants receive a free T-shirt, fresh fruit and water.

SNAPS orientation set

The Schweinfurt Newcomers’ Awareness Program for Spouses will hold its next orientation classes Sept. 10-14. SNAPS is a monthly five-day relocation readiness program offered by Army Community Services.

Come learn what both the military and German Schweinfurt communities have to offer. Hear agency briefings, tour local medical facilities, learn to ride the German busses, and take a train trip to Bamberg, all as part of this free program.

Child care is available, free of charge, for the entire week for CYS registered children.

Kids are non-divorceable

Let the Leighton Army Community Service Center help you gain the information necessary to effectively parent children while learning practical skills that will strengthen, support, and empower your family. The class will be held Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Leighton ACS, Bldg. 14.

Berlin

Story by Rabia Nombamba
Courtesy Photos

the greatest cultural
extravaganza that one could
imagine

Berlin is a city with something for almost everyone—history buffs, shopaholics, partiers, sports fans, music lovers, animal lovers, and more.

With its recent history as a West German island in Russian-influenced East Germany, the city has its own unique flair, culture, and appearance.

“It’s a different world. It’s almost like a city in the States, but with a German touch,” said Sadie Collins, 106th Finance Company, while driving past Ku’damm and Tauentzienstraße heading towards the Potsdamer Platz.

The Kurfürstendamm, or as Berliners say, “Ku’damm,” is part of West Berlin’s city center and a large shopping strip that offers something for every budget.

It’s also home to the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche, still in use today despite its broken roof that serves as a reminder of the bombing of the city during World War II.

A five-minute walk away, the Berlin Zoo and Aquarium can be found amidst the city. According to Berlin’s official Web site, the zoo is the world’s most diverse and the largest in Europe. And with its newest star, the Polar Bear cub “Knut,” the zoo has reached worldwide popularity.

The city’s “new center,” reconstructed after the reunification of Germany, the Potsdamer Platz is home to a shopping mall, movie theaters featuring movies in English, a casino, and various restaurants, bars and cafés, and many companies also have offices in the glass-towered buildings.

Berlin’s single remaining city gate, the more than 200-year-old Brandenburger Gate, can be found near the Potsdamer Platz.

This famous landmark once symbolized the division of Berlin into West Berlin (occupied by the U.S., Great Britain, and France) and East Berlin (occupied by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). But today it is a national symbol of German unity.

Another Cold War relic, the museum “Haus Checkpoint Charlie” documents the history of the Berlin wall at the former border crossing point. Today, the only visible proof of its existence is a border sign and a soldier’s post at its former location on Friedrichstrasse.

With over 170 museums featuring everything from ancient history like the Egyptian Nefertiti or the Greek Pergamon Altar, to modern historical sights like the Charlottenburg Palace and Park, the Gendarmenmarkt (city square), the Museums Island with an ensemble of buildings listed as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites or the Reichstag with its new glass dome open for visitors to watch the government in action and the embassy district, the city is teeming with history and culture.



Today the Brandenburger Gate serves as a national symbol of German unity.



Visitors pass by the Potsdamer Platz during a river cruise in Berlin.



A small booth and a museum are all that is left of Checkpoint Charlie.



A recreational boat cruises past the Berliner Dom on Museum Island.



Visitors can watch the German government in action at the Reichstag.

And for the shopaholics, various shopping strips and malls, flea and antique markets are spread across the city and offer everything from mainstream to unique and bizarre clothing and products.

Putting its cultural diversity on display, the city hosts various cultural, entertainment, and sporting events during the year. The Carnival of Culture, an intercultural parade and open air party; the international film festival Berlinale; and the Berlin Marathon are examples.

The area around the Hackescher Markt is famous for its unique shopping opportunities and is also popular for the various bars in the area around the Pariserstrasse, Savignyplatz or the

districts Friedrichsheim, Kreuzberg and Prenzlauer Berg.

Berlin has no official closing hours for bars, restaurants, and clubs, making it easy to stay out until the wee hours of the morning.

There are many ways to see Berlin as tours come in every variety. Tours are offered by bus, bicycle, tram, on foot, and by boat. There are family tours, couple tours, and night tours, just to name a few.

Being a city of rivers and channels and with more bridges than Venice, boat tours are a convenient and interesting way to experience the city.

Those who would like to tour the city on their own should take advantage of the public transportation system.

Offering one ticket for all undergrounds, trams, metros, busses, and ferries, it gets everyone anywhere in and around Berlin.

“Public transport was kind of easy, but trying to get on a bus is confusing,” said Spc. Donald Dechert, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 412th Area Support Battalion, who took a four-day trip to Berlin in 2004.

“To figure out what bus is leaving from what bus stop and where they are heading to is a challenge, but the U-Bahn (underground) is easy. I saw a lot, but there are still a lot of things I hope I get the chance to see,” he said

For more information on Berlin, its sights, current events and accommodations, visit <http://www.berlin.de/english/>.

“It’s a different world. It’s almost like a city in the States, but with a German touch...”

the history

Berlin is one of Germany’s younger cities. Today’s Berlin is an accumulation of various smaller towns. However the town of Berlin—the area of the city now known as Nikolaiviertel—was first mentioned in 1244.

During the late 15th century, Berlin was established as the capital of the margraviate Brandenburg. Later Berlin became the capital of the kings of Prussia and in 1871 of the German emperors.

A lot of the French influence that can be seen in the city’s appearance and even its unique dialect can be traced back to 1685 when Prussian King Frederick William offered asylum to the French Huguenots with the Edict of Potsdam. As a result, about 6,000 people settled in Berlin and by 1700 about 20 percent of Berlin’s residents were French. Immigrants from Bohemia, Salzburg, and Poland followed soon.

During the industrial revolution, Berlin

became Germany’s main economic center and other suburbs were incorporated into the city.

With the end of World War I, the Weimar Republic was proclaimed in Berlin and the city expanded further.

After the elections in 1933, Berlin became the capital of the Nazis.

During World War II, large parts of Berlin were destroyed.

After the end of war in Europe, the victorious powers divided the city into four sectors. Berlin sectors occupied by the West Allies formed West Berlin, while the Soviet sector formed East Berlin.

With the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949, West Berlin remained a free city separate from the Federal Republic, while East Berlin became the capital of the Marxist-Leninist German Democratic Republic; however, the West allies never recognized it as such.

Further growing tension between East

and West resulted in the construction of the Berlin Wall and the block off of other areas of East Germany in 1961.

With a tank standoff at Checkpoint Charlie Oct. 27, 1962, West Berlin became a de facto part of West Germany with a unique legal status, and East Berlin a de facto part of East Germany.

Berlin was completely separated. People of the Western World could only pass to the East through strictly controlled checkpoints, and most residents of East Berlin and East Germany were prohibited to travel to the West by its government.

Through pressure by the East German population, the citizens gained free access across the Berlin Wall Nov. 9, 1989, resulting in the breakdown of the communist government.

On Oct. 3, 1990, the two parts of Germany were reunified as the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin became the capital once again.

12th CAB Female Soldiers taking door gunner combat roles head on

Story and photo by
Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
12th CAB Public Affairs

Three deployed female Soldiers from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade are training for some risky business.

Spc. Lisa Lopez, Spc. Stephanie Robinson and Sgt. Shandell McClain volunteered for a tough assignment: help defend the 12th CAB's aircraft against enemy attacks.

An enemy could fire at a helicopter with anything from machine guns to shoulder-fired missiles.

Knowing this, these A Co. 5-158th General Aviation Support Battalion Soldiers rose to the challenge and volunteered for duty as helicopter door gunners.

The three are part of a larger group of Soldiers that the 12th CAB is training for additional duty as door-gunners on its aircraft.

Door gunners are the primary source of defense for UH-60 Blackhawks and CH-47 Chinooks.

"My parents are still in shock about my job," Robinson said.

With the increased number of aircraft that have been shot down, a door-gunner has to be prepared to pull the trigger.

"It's kind of scary to think about being shot at, but if they shoot at me I'm going to shoot back," Lopez said.

Lopez and the other gunners operate a M240 machine guns to return fire at the enemy.

The weapon can fire more than 800 rounds per minute at a target and it



Spc. Lisa M. Lopez, Spc. Stephanie Robinson, and Sgt. Shandell McClain, A Co. 5-158th General Aviation Support Battalion, stand with one of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade UH-60 Blackhawks they will protect as volunteer door gunners.

weighs more than 25 pounds.

Before they can sit in a gunner's seat, each person must go through

months of training and multiple qualification stages.

"I have gotten the chance to fly

three or four times so far," McClain said.

Robinson is the only one of the

three who has reached the level of qualification to fly without an instructor present.

"Out there, I'm constantly scanning rooftops and the ground to find something out of the ordinary," she said. "You really have to focus out there because the pilots rely on us a lot."

The height and speed at which these aircraft travel can allow a gunner only a matter of seconds to decide whether a target is hostile and if they should fire or not.

"We try to instill self-confidence and motivation (in door gunners) to allow them to make the decision they feel is right and stand by it," said Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Meeks, a former flight instructor for 5-158th.

Meeks was one of the instructors who helped train Lopez, McClain, and Robinson. He is now their platoon sergeant.

"They're doing a pretty good job," he said. "We don't give them any special favors just because they're females."

A Soldier is a Soldier and nothing else matters, except trying to make it home safe, said Spc. Lamon A. Williams, a crew chief in 5-158th.

"A woman can do every job in the Army just as good as any man, and we get just as dirty as they do everyday," Robinson said.

All three of these gunners should get plenty of opportunities to fly and defend 12th CAB's aircraft during this deployment.

"It's a whole lot safer than driving," McClain said.

Gungslingers sending tough message to enemy

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class CHRIS SEATON
12th CAB Public Affairs

Two months ago, life for the Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment sped up very quickly.

Two days after arriving in Iraq, 2-159th's pilots and ground crews were already launching aircraft, and have been ever since.

Since their arrival, 2-159th pilots have flown missions throughout Iraq. They fly support missions for installation security, VIP and convoy escorts, air reconnaissance, air cover for lift missions, and various other duties.

The unit is currently flying missions from three locations in all six multinational division areas.

"We're flying substantially more hours per month than the unit we replaced," said Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Bud Steen.

There are only a few attack helicopter battalions in theater. Most are assigned to support individual divisions, but because the 2-159th works in direct support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, their airspace covers the entire country.

"We sometimes get called all the way from Baghdad to Ramadi...wherever troops need us," Steen said.

"The operational tempo is very high here," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Collier, a senior instructor pilot for B. Co., 2-159th. "Most guys are looking at doing about five years worth of flying in the year and change we'll be in Iraq."

The pilots of the 2-159th fly the AH-64D Apache helicopter.

Equipped with the lethal "Hellfire" missiles and a 30mm main gun, it is the most lethal of the 12th CAB's three airframes.

While other helicopters are built for carrying

cargo or people, the Apache's role in combat is, as its name suggests, that of an attack helicopter.

"Basically, we're like the infantry Soldiers of the air," Collier said. "We've already had quite a few individuals engage the enemy."

In less than two months of flying, several pilots have already earned their combat action badges and some have already been nominated for honors like the Distinguished Flying Cross.

"This is a very dangerous place and every one of our pilots knows that this might become a 'two-way range'," Collier said. "Each pilot has to have the confidence that he can handle it. Out of all the missions that we do, we enjoy the missions with the ground troops the most."

The reason for the sharp increase in flight hours is the call on all Army units to support the troop surge, said Lt. Col. Kevin Christensen, 2-159th commander.

Part of that support is to make sure Soldiers on the ground are safe as they move about

in convoys outside of the installation.

"We want to send a message to the enemy that if you mess with one of our convoys, we have Apaches and we will hurt you," Steen said.

Pilots aren't the only Soldiers in the battalion to work long hours. With every mission that goes out, there are personnel on the ground to launch, recover and maintain the aircraft.

Much like the rest of the battalion, Spc. Scott Workman, an aircraft maintainer from D. Co., 2-159th, works 12-hour shifts. There is maintenance going on 24-hours-a-day to keep the pilots in the air, he said.

"I was in Basrah about a month ago and we had four aircraft down there and they were all grounded. We went and got them back in the air," said Spc. Christopher Waldron, a crew chief



D. Co., 2-159th Aviation Regiment's Spc. Scott Workman and Spc. Luis Ruiz inspect the rotors of an AH-64D Apache helicopter at LSA Anaconda, Iraq.



Two AH-64D Apaches from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's 2-159th Aviation Regiment take off from a taxi way on LSA Anaconda, Iraq.

from B. Co., 2-159th. "I feel like I'm really part of the fight."

Shorter shifts would be great, but it's a luxury 12th CAB Soldiers can't afford.

"With the mission the way it is, we just can't afford it and every one of us understands that," he said. "It's not just the pilots and it's not just the crew chiefs or the maintainers—everybody in the unit contributes."

That sentiment is echoed throughout the battalion, Steen said. Despite the hours and conditions, the Soldiers know that each of their missions is important.

"I'm trying to make sure these Soldiers know that they're all contributing whether they see it or not," he said. "We work long hours and it's hot outside, but everyone's doing their part and I'm proud of them."

Ansbach earns conservation award

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army has recognized three U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Directorate of Public Works employees for their success in energy and water conservation.

Regina Kranz, Gabriele Berner, and Rudolf Gmelch of DPW's energy efficiency/energy management group helped Ansbach earn the Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award in the small group category.

The garrison and the trio were cited for improving efficiency, instituting renewable technologies, and promoting energy awareness, according to an Aug. 17 Installation Management Command-Europe press release.

"These individuals and installations exemplify our dedication to preserving the environment and protecting our natural resources," said Geoffrey Prosch, principal deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for installations and environment.

"These awards recognize how the Army is working aggressively to

ensure that Soldiers have the resources they need to accomplish their mission: the land, water, air, and energy resources needed to train, test, and field systems, and, a healthy environment in which to live," Prosch added.

Joseph Gillich, chief of the utilities division of DPW, said Ansbach also won the award in 1980 and 1997 and that the the garrison has a history of going above and beyond in water and energy conservation.

"Long before USAREUR started its energy conservation award program 22 years ago, Ansbach DPW Utilities Division already had its own program in place in 1975," Gillich said.

And proud for good reason, as Ansbach exceeded USAREUR's target of a total 35 percent energy reduction by 2010 in 1994—16 years early thanks to employee dedication.

"It wasn't a normal duty for them since the division no longer has designated staff for it," Gillich said. "It just had to be done to keep the system operational since additional funding was not fully available."

The 2007 award was given to

Ansbach primarily for energy conservation, said Gillich, adding that exploiting new technology has paid great dividends.

"Since 1975, we're not saving only the equivalent of 70 percent of our energy, but also energy revenue which adds up to more than \$20 million annually."

Gillich said each team member played a key role in Ansbach's award-winning energy conservation effort.

Kranz, utilities engineer and energy manager, managed and administered the garrison's energy savings programs, and implemented and found renewable energy sources.

Gmelch, chief of the utilities energy monitoring and control system, continuously managed daily energy consumption.

Berner, the purchasing utility specialist, administered and updated purchased utility contracts.

All three were happy to receive recognition for their efforts, but while they were supposed to be basking in glory, they were instead looking to improve.

"We received the award at a conference we attended in New Orleans in August," said Kranz, who



Regina Kranz and Gabriele Berner of Ansbach's DPW Energy Efficiency/Energy Management Group were recognized by the Army as No. 1 in energy and water conservation. Pictured with them is their chief, Joseph Gillich. The other member of the team, Rudolf Gmelch, was unavailable for a photograph.

has worked for DPW for five years. "There we had the opportunity to learn new information and get new ideas.

"Our small team has done a good job and I am proud of this," she added. "What is important to me is that I have

a chance to conduct more energy saving projects and apply these new ideas further in my daily work on a more global perspective.

This type of award gives me more incentive to perform such work," she said.

412th ASB keeps Soldiers going downrange with 'Home Depot' services

by 2nd Lt. JAMES A. ANDERSON
A. Co., 412th Aviation Support Battalion

Helicopters can't fly without fuel. Nor can a Humvee go very far without its front tires.

And the thousands of gallons of bottled water Soldiers on Logistics Support Area Anaconda drink each day had to come from somewhere.

That's where the recently arrived Alpha Company Workhorses of the 412th Aviation Support Battalion come in.

A Co. is the aviation logistics distribution company for the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade and LSA Anaconda, which in turn provides aerial support for many of the coalition forces in Iraq.

This company is comprised of a supply platoon, fuel and water platoon and a transportation platoon.

"Within a few short hours of arriving, the troopers of A Co. were hard at work beginning the process of relieving their predecessors and setting the tone for our successful deployment," said Capt. Angel R. Estrada, A Co. commander.

A Co.'s supply platoon is mainly located in an aircraft hangar-style warehouse full of vehicle parts and many other types of supplies. They are responsible for receiving parts and equipment that have been ordered or recently repaired.

"We issue parts to the entire installation and all units attached to the 12th CAB," said Staff Sgt. Rockwell Botchway, the NCO in charge of the supply warehouse. "We even issue supplies

Staff Sgt.
Rockwell Botchway,
NCO in charge
of A Co. 412th
ASB's supply
warehouse,
directs Spc.
Andre Minnin
to a pallet that
needs to be
lifted.

Photos by Sgt.
Brandon Little



to the Air Force and other branches of the military located in the area."

The supplies and equipment are received by the pallet load each day, and downloaded and processed as soon as they arrive.

"This is like a big Home Depot," said Botchway.

In addition to providing parts, A Co. supplies the 12th CAB with fuel and water.

Fuel handlers from this company, along with armament repairers, help operate three Forward Arming and Refueling Points on LSA Anaconda. They are responsible for fueling and arming all U.S. military aircraft that land there.

In addition to that, the "water dogs" transport and distribute pallets of fresh drinking water to

Soldiers in the area.

"These Soldiers have taken charge and assumed full responsibility for the mission of providing world class support to the brigade and the theater," said Estrada. "It's not an exaggeration to say these Soldiers provide the very lifeblood of the entire brigade."

Finally, the transportation platoon aids the 12th CAB with both transportation support and force protection. These Soldiers provide around-the-clock security for the installation by standing watch in guard towers.

"These Soldiers must wear full gear (Kevlar and body armor) in the demanding 120 degree heat and taxing summertime sun," said Estrada. "Their hard work and dedication is a fine



Private 1st Class Jing Wang, a supply clerk for A Co. 412th Aviation Support Battalion, separates and stores parts that were recently unloaded.

example of the tenacity and character of the entire Workhorse organization."

So when Anaconda's Soldiers and Airmen hear a helicopter rumbling overhead, or pour powdered fruit-punch drink mix into a cool bottle of water, there's a pretty good chance that A Co. Workhorses had something to do with it.



Photo by Rabia Nombamba

Five-year-old Kevin Krambs sits still to get his tiger face painted by Diana Adame at the USAG Ansbach Showcase Aug. 25 on Katterbach Kaserne. Hundreds of community members attended the Ansbach Showcase for fun, games, food, and information on garrison and community services and products.

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Saturday 8 SEPTEMBER
10:30 Fest Opens
11:00-14:30 DJ and Rides
14:30-16:00 Denver Nugget Dancers & Cougar Mascot
16:00-18:00 DJ and Rides
18:00-22:00 Donny Vox Band
18:00-23:00 Rides

Sunday 9 SEPTEMBER
11:00 Fest Opens
12:00-16:00 Uptown Shufflers
12:00-18:00 Rides
16:00-18:00 DJ
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Bamberg welcomes new DGC

USAG Bamberg news release

U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg welcomes V. Renae Crutches as its new deputy garrison commander.

Crutches arrived in Bamberg Aug. 8 after completing the Garrison Pre-Command Course and believes this will be her most rewarding assignment to date.

"This is truly where the rubber meets the road," said Crutches.

She is prepared for the challenges that lie ahead and said, "taking care of our Soldiers and their families equates to mission readiness. I am proud to be a part of such an awesome team whose focus is that of ensuring the Bamberg community's needs are met."

Crutches has 25 years of experience working for the Department of Defense with an extensive background in transportation analysis and management and deployment operations.

She is a Senior Executive Fellow of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, has a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy, a Master of Science degree in Management and a bachelor's degree in Economics and Mathematics.

She is a current participant in the Defense Leadership and Management Program.

She looks forward to establishing a strong working relationship with all units, tenant activities, and organizations of U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg.



Crutches

Feel the *burn* as you earn miles at OW4F Aerobathon

Story and photo by AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

You've logged miles running, walking, roller blading and biking, now it's time to try something new.

Join Bamberg's certified group fitness instructors Ayla Biggerstaff, Kara Steffey, Becky Encino, and Kelley Cruz for three non-stop hours of exercise (and mile earning) at the Operation Walk 4 Freedom Aerobathon at the Bamberg Freedom Fitness Facility Sept 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Health Promotion Office and MWR Sports and Fitness are offering the weekend Walk 4 Freedom event to give exercise enthusiasts and OW4F participants a chance to try something new.

OW4F is a community-wide health initiative where participants log exercise miles to equal the distance to Afghanistan, Iraq, or wherever a loved one is deployed.

Angela Hunter, Bamberg health promotion coordinator and OW4F program manager said, "it's time to change things up! The Aerobathon participants will not only burn a few extra calories, but they can earn double Operation Walk 4 Freedom miles too."

To date approximately 300 participants have been logging thousands of OW4F miles by walking, running, rollerblading, and biking. The Aerobathon gives exercisers the chance to mix up their regular routine and earn up to 24 miles for participating.

"That's more miles than most people can run in three hours," Hunter pointed out.

Still skeptical about volunteering yourself for a three hour 'Boot Camp' or a possible 'Ab Attack'? The group fitness instructors are on a mission to show exercisers that fitness classes are not as intimidating as they sound and not just for women.

Biggerstaff and Steffey team up every Monday to teach the dreaded 'Boot Camp.' Biggerstaff says the class is an excellent way to get in a great all-body workout.

"There's nothing to fear, it's an exercise class



Bamberg fitness instructors Ayla Biggerstaff and Kara Steffey demonstrate a waist whittling exercise during a two-hour Boot Camp class offered every Monday.

for men and women at any level," said Biggerstaff. "The two hour workout alternates between cardio and all-body weight training. It's a great way to change up your routine and see awesome results at the same time."

Steffey's cardio kick boxing class is packed with fun, easy to learn combinations that include athletic drills, kicks, and punches. The class also includes strength and stability moves, followed by core training and stretching.

Encino tackles the hard-to-hit spots with a Balls, Bells and Bands toning class and, by request, will help you attack your abs during the 'Ab Attack' class.

As a group instructor, Cruz has heard it all.

She said the most commonly heard objection to aerobics is, "I'm not coordinated enough."

The key is to keep moving and Cruz promises to keep you going during her 50-minute Step-Aerobic class featuring rhythmic step and music.

The Aerobathon will feature the same classes that are regularly offered at the fitness facility.

The event is free and T-shirts will be given to the first 50 participants. Bring a bottle of water with you for hydrating. Healthy snacks will be provided.

Visit www.bamberg.army.mil or call Angela Hunter at USAG Bamberg at DSN 469-7043 (Tues. and Thurs.) or at DSN 354-6793 (Mon., Wed., and Fri.) for more information on OW4F.

Do you have what it takes to be the next 'Rising Star'?

Bamberg hosts Army version of 'American Idol' beginning Sept. 15

Bamberg MWR news release

Calling all self-proclaimed karaoke kings and queens, it's time to step out of the shower and onto the stage to find out if you have what it takes to be a star.

All singers are invited to participate in the local Bamberg "Operation Rising Star" first elimination round starting Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Moonlight Cabin, Bldg. 7682.

Operation Rising Star is an Army wide singing competition building on the success of Military Idol. The competition continues for the Army, the exciting display of raw talent made famous by television reality shows such as American Idol, Nashville Star, Star Search, and Rock Star Supernova.

Local contestants will perform live at the Moonlight Cabin in Bamberg during a series of eight-week elimination rounds.

No matter where you regularly strut-your-stuff—in the shower, car, church, or even just in front of a mirror—the time has come to take your show on the road and let the audience decide if you have what it takes to be a star. From round two on, the audience vote will make up 50 percent of the final decision as to who will become Bamberg's Operation Rising Star.

Be sure to bring your supporters! Performers as well as audience members can win great prizes at every determination round.

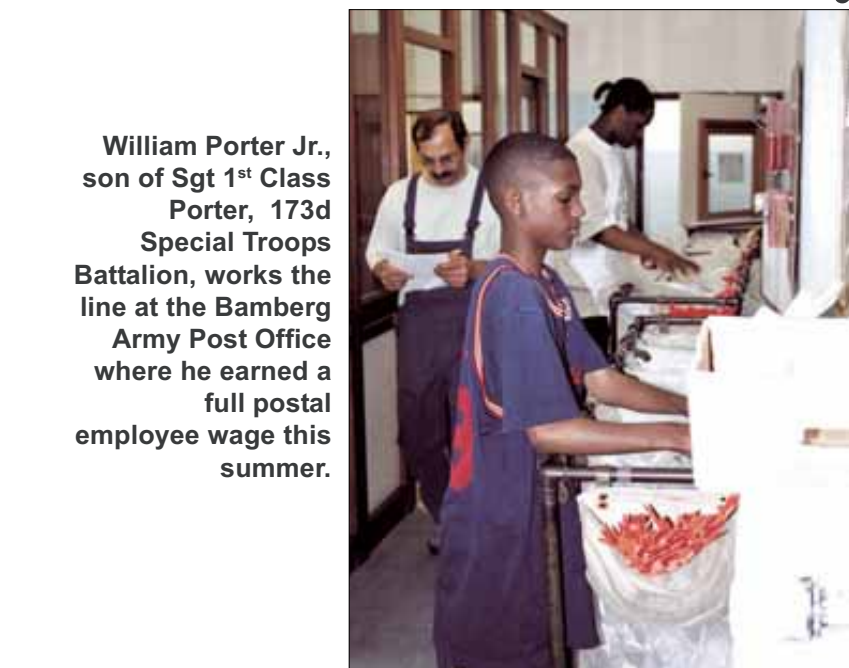
For more information or to sign up, contact Allen Vance at DSN 469-8423 or go to www.opRisingStar.com



Jack Austin, Bamberg's entertainment director speaks with 2006 Bamberg Military Idol finalist Pfc. Emma Walgenbach, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, just after her final performance. Walgenbach walked away with second place and \$250 last year.

Photo by Simon Hupfer

Students and community benefit from youth work experience



Story and photo by JAMES FREDRICK
Bavarian News

For many students, summer vacation can be a time to relax and have fun, but for a group of young go-getters, this summer meant one thing, a full time job.

As part of the annual summer hire program, 26 students from Bamberg were given the opportunity to work full-time in temporary summer positions in the garrison. Summer hires worked daily alongside adult supervisors and coworkers learning the skills of each particular assignment.

Recent Bamberg High School graduate Bernard McPherson Jr. worked at the Bamberg Army Post Office under the supervision of Post Master Douglas Stewart. "It was like being a part of the real work force,"

said McPherson.

Summer hire duties at the Post Office included sorting, bagging, and tagging incoming mail for distribution at Warner Barracks.

Duties varied throughout the garrison for the entire summer hire workforce.

"We gave our summer hire a challenging job this year," said Richard Pollitt, Bamberg's Director of Logistics.

Sixteen-year-old Joshua Robinson, son of Staff Sgt. Donavon Deneffeld of the 173d Brigade Support Battalion, was given the opportunity to redesign the DOL Web page.

"Joshua used his own initiative to go in and learn the skills he needed to complete the job," said Pollitt. "Not only did he help us and the community but he walks away this summer with a new set of skills."

A self-contained project such as the work completed by Robinson falls outside the regular clerical or light labor tasks that are usually available through the program.

When the summer began Robinson said he knew very little about Web design and is happy he now has a quality product to show for his efforts.

"It's a win-win, and DOL is looking forward to more summer hires," said Pollitt.

The students were able to take away more than just new skills and some extra spending cash.

As part of the program, they also attended a weekly class to learn about budgeting and managing their finances.

Managing money can be a hard lesson to learn because the summer hires unanimously agreed on the plans for their summer earnings—"Spending it, spending it all!"



At twilight, the girls gather together in the friendship circle to close out another day during their Twilight summer camp by singing the song “Day is Done.” All participants sing, “Day is done, gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky; All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.”

Girl Scouts gear up after a successful ‘Twilight’

Story and photo by AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

Some of life’s most important questions get answered at summer camp such as: Why do they call the traditional campfire treat a S’more? How do you bake a batch of brownies in a cardboard box? How do you make paper or silly putty from common household items? And, what’s it really like to be a Girl Scout?

Over 50 girls learned the answers to these questions and more at the Girl Scout’s Twilight Camp held at Warner Barracks’ Engineer Lake in Bamberg Aug. 20-23.

The four day camp itinerary offered Daisy (kindergarteners), Brownie (grades 1-3), and Junior (grades 4-6) aged girls the opportunity to find out what Girl Scouts is all about.

Campers practiced outdoor skills and safety, worked on arts and crafts, learned songs, played games and made new friends. Ten cadet (grades 7-9) and senior (grades 10-12) aged campers were also given an opportunity to improve their

leadership skills as they assisted alongside adult volunteer leaders.

Twilight Camp is a first for this community and was introduced by Bamberg’s new Girl Scouts Overseas Committee Chair Patty Sahli. Sahli may be relatively new to the Bamberg community, but not to scouting.

“I was a Girl Scout through high school, then a troop leader for all ages, a stateside service team member and eventually an event and camp organizer,” she explained.

Sahli brings years of valuable Girl Scout leadership experience, organizational skills, and creativity to the volunteer position. She is determined to train up the adult leaders in order to broaden the Girl Scout experience for girls of all ages in the Bamberg community.

If the giggles and smiles on the girl’s faces aren’t enough to confirm the camp’s success, then Sahli will.

“It’s a success,” she confirmed. “We already have more girls involved this year than were even registered last year.” “This is really gearing

us up for a rally,” she states referring to a drive for membership.

Sahli knows the shared experiences at camp won’t be forgotten by their rally date on Sept. 13 and she is anticipating a large number of new registrants during the recruitment drive.

“We are currently only serving 7 percent of this community, and our goal is to serve 13 percent of the girl potential in the community,” she said. She promised to do this by partnering with other European garrison Committee Chairs and their troops as well as retaining older girls like high school sophomore and senior Girl Scout Bethany Yost.

“This is one of the best Girl Scout communities I have ever been in,” said Yost. Yost has been a Girl Scout for eight years and plans to stay active this year as a senior scout.

To keep her Girl Scout promise, Sahli is partnering with Sarah Small, OCC-Schweinfurt, to apply for a \$1,000 grant from the Dove Self-Esteem Fund which was established to offer programs to foster positive self-esteem in girls.

The grant money will fund the materials needed to implement a “Discover Your Inner Beauty” retreat for girls 14 to 17 years old.

Programs such as these are a far cry from cookie sales and underscore how the Girl Scouts program has changed to reflect the ever changing needs and interests of girls today.

Sahli’s excitement about the potential for this year extends far beyond cookies sales which she notes, “will be sold around the holidays, depending on when they arrive.”

Interested parents and girls 5 to 17 years old can visit the Girl Scouts at the Youth Services Kinderfest Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

A Girl Scouts registration rally will be held at the Scout Hut located at Bldg. 7480 behind Ray’s Diner Sept. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

So, why is the traditional camp treat called a S’more? Girl Scouts of any age can tell you, “It’s because you always want ‘some-more’.” For some-more information about the Bamberg Girl Scouts e-mail Patty Sahli at bamberggirlscouts@gmail.com.



Photo by Karen Lazzeri

Bamberg’s award winning library programs keep Families connected

(Ret.) Maj. Madonna Roberts helps children pick out background paper for creating scrapbook pages. The Bamberg Community Library hosts a scrapbooking day once a month as part of their activities for Families of deployed Soldiers. Children can bring in pictures and create pages, then send them downrange to their loved ones who then add their own pictures and feelings to the pages. The next scrapbooking day is Sept. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

The U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Library was recently recognized by IMCOM-E as the MWR Library Program of the Year for medium-sized installations.

“We are a community library focused on the total Army Family. We try to sponsor activities that everyone in the Army family can enjoy and this is just one example,” said Karen Lazzeri, the Bamberg library director.

173rd BSB families go green for a day

Jack McDonald, son of Maj. Tim McDonald, receives a tour of a Humvee from Spc. Brian Kilpatrick Aug. 17 during the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion Family readiness group’s “Families Go Green Day.” The day-long event featured target practice at the indoor weapon simulators range, a chance to ride in a Humvee, and an opportunity to try on a full set of battle gear.

“All together, the vest, gun, and helmet are so heavy, we are experiencing only a small part of our spouse’s day,” said Jody King, wife of Staff Sgt. Harold King. “It shows how strong the Soldiers really are.”



Photo by James Fredrick

European Command leaders visit Bamberg Aug. 22

Photo by Renate Bohlen



Command Sgt. Maj. Mark L. Farley, United States European Command’s senior enlisted leader, reviews briefing slides as Lt. Col. Todd Johnson, provides an overview of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, the combatant commander of the European Command while 173rd spouses look on. Craddock addressed the deployment extension (from 12 to 15 months) during a visit to Warner Barracks, Bamberg Aug. 22. “The new normal is 15 (months) but it’s not normal yet,” he said. Craddock encouraged Soldiers and Families to share good ideas. “There are a lot of improvements that need to be shared. You need to continue to talk to us,” he said.

Enrollment down, spirits up at Wuerzburg

Story and photos by **ROGER TEEL**
Bavarian News

Wuerzburg American Middle School teacher Bill Kowalski spent several days over the summer moving classroom materials and school memorabilia from the now vacant middle school on Leighton Barracks to classrooms and hallways in Wuerzburg Elementary School.

"I wanted kids who were returning to our school to see something familiar, to have something to identify with," Kowalski said.

Middle school classes are now held in the north hallway of the elementary school. The former Wuerzburg middle school facility closed in June.

Kowalski lugged the school's trophy case, entryway rugs and PRIDE (Preparation, Responsibility, Integrity, Determination and Excellence) banners and placed them in the school hallways.

"It's important that returning students have a sense of continuity, a sense that their school has not closed but just relocated," Kowalski said. "After greeting the students, we walked around the building and came in the front entrance so they could see the trophy case and banners. We wanted them to feel it was the same school they left last spring," he said.

Enrollment at Wuerzburg schools are significantly lower than in recent years. The high school is now a Division III school with 215 students: 78 freshmen, 65 sophomores, 49 juniors and 23 seniors, reported school secretary Kristin Queen.

The elementary school has 110 students in pre-kindergarten to fifth grade, and "about 50" students in middle school, according to school secretary Nicole Haugh.

"Those numbers will probably drop in the coming months," Haugh added, as Leighton Barracks continues to prepare for closure in 2008.

Debbie Strong, the new elementary/middle school principal, said smaller classrooms give students "a wonderful educational opportunity."

"The connection between teachers and students in small classrooms can provide an incredible learning experience," she said.

Strong came to Wuerzburg from Stuttgart where she was assistant principal at Boeblingen Elementary School, an experience that girded her for the job here. She provided administrative direction in transitioning the Stuttgart school from a K-5 facility to one that now includes middle school students.

Prior to Stuttgart, Strong was a third grade teacher at Bad Aibling Elementary School when that school — and the installation — closed in 2004.

"There's a lot of anxiety when a community faces closure," Strong said. "There's anxiety when parents don't know where they will be assigned next year, and there's anxiety among teachers who don't know what their future may be. This stress trickles down to the kids.

"My job here is to be the encourager" she continued. "I'm here to keep spirits up, to tell people everything will be all right and to not stress."

One teacher who wasn't about to stress was Tim Givens, a new middle school teacher who arrived a few weeks ago from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"It's wonderful to be here," Givens said. "At least it's not 95 degrees and humid like it is every day in Cuba."

“It’s important that returning students have a sense of continuity, a sense that their school has not closed, just relocated.”

Bill Kowalski
Teacher



Following class orientations, Wuerzburg High School students find their way along crowded halls to their first class Aug. 27.



Debbie Strong is the new principal at Wuerzburg Elementary/Middle School. Strong came to Wuerzburg from Stuttgart where she was assistant principal at Boeblingen Elementary School.



Textbooks outnumbered students in Archie Tucker's freshman science classroom. Enrollment at Wuerzburg schools are significantly lower than in recent years. The high school has 215 students.

AFTB offers education for newcomers, opportunities for all

Story and photos by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**
Bavarian News

Have you ever listened to your spouse spouting acronyms and jargon and wondered "What in the world is he saying?" Or maybe you understand the "alphabet soup," but are really unsure what to do when you are approached by members of the media.

If so, then Army Family Team Building courses can help.

Community members are sometimes reluctant to attend AFTB courses, believing them to be "something that the Army wants us to do, but that's not it at all," said Jennifer Litchfield, the AFTB program manager in Schweinfurt.

AFTB grew out of issues presented during Army Family Action Plan conferences—suggestions offered by military Family members.

The training program is broken down into three levels.

"The first level is great for newcomers. We go over acronyms, military traditions and customs, and we do it all with fun and games," Litchfield said.

Subsequent levels offer progressively more detailed, specific seminars on everything ranging from creating successful presentations to dealing with the public media.

Last month, AFTB instructor training was offered.

You need not have completed the first three levels to attend instructor training; that can be completed afterward. However, you must have taken a class before you offer training in that class.

"AFTB training is purely for your personal and professional growth," Litchfield said, explaining that all instructors are volunteers.

Volunteer instructors are supplied with course materials to present, but are encouraged to be creative in the way they teach it.

Yvette Stewart, for example, began the Level III media module by inviting a member of the local public affairs office to do mock interviews with the students.

Soldiers are encouraged to attend as well, and can earn promotion points for attending all three courses.

"We really try to get them in on Level III," since there is so much offered dealing with professional growth, Litchfield said.

The challenge, Litchfield said, is in getting enough instructors to share the workload. Often, more knowledgeable community members are reluctant to attend, feeling that community members should already know the material AFTB teaches. Litchfield has an answer for that.

"Come on out and teach them."

For more information regarding the program, or to register for AFTB training, call DSN 354-6933 or 354-7079.



Photo by Krista Browning

Birds of a feather learn together

The AFN Eagle visited Bamberg Elementary students at the back-to-school Lemonade on the Lawn Aug. 27. The school invited parents and students to meet with the faculty and enjoy lemonade, cookies, and a scavenger hunt. The event also gave parents the opportunity to speak with representatives from local youth organizations like the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Bamberg Performing Arts Club, Child and Youth Services, and the Parent Teacher Association.

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Craddock, Farley to relay local concerns to EUCOM’s ‘big system’

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander, U.S. European Command Gen. Bantz J. Craddock and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Farley spent an hour yesterday answering questions, sharing information, and heaping praise on Soldiers, Family members, and civilians in the Schweinfurt military community.

“I can’t tell you much that you don’t know about the global war on terrorism,” said Craddock. “You live it everyday.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Farley echoed that sentiment, noting that his own son is enlisted and has been through two deployments. Farley noted that it is different seeing deployments from the side of a Family member rather than a Soldier.

“I understand that on a personal level,” he said.

But the reason for their visit, Farley explained, was to be the community’s “voice back into the big system.”

“If there’s really a burr under your saddle, we need to hear about it,” said

Craddock.

The ensuing questions covered issues ranging from the lack of available doctors to the problems Stop Loss/Stop Movements cause with the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS.

“DEERS is a 20th century anachronism,” for a 21st century Army, Craddock said, calling it a “security blanket” that everyone is comfortable with but that needs to change to suit the ever-changing needs of America’s fighting forces and their Families.

Farley addressed concerns about dwell time and how Army schools such as the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course may be shortened to six weeks so that Soldiers can spend more time at home rather than spending their dwell time training.

That training, however, is what separates and elevates American fighting forces above and beyond other NATO forces, Craddock said.

Strong communities and strong, innovative rear-detachment forces, such as Task Force Guardian, are the

other keys to maintaining a strong force. Craddock praised TFG as “probably the model for the Army in the future” and a “pioneering” effort in rear-detachment organization.

On the subject of communities, Craddock was hit with questions regarding the status of Schweinfurt and its absence from the list of enduring European military installations.

Craddock indicated that assumptions previously made about force levels in the European Command AOR merit review. An analysis has been forwarded to the Secretary of Defense and any decisions will ultimately be announced by the Department of Defense.

In the meantime, the Schweinfurt community will continue to support its deployed Soldiers, in 2nd Brigade, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry, and other individually deployed elements, as well as the Families back home.

“You are serving just as much as your Soldier spouses,” Farley said, and for that service, for those sacrifices, both Farley and Craddock tendered a heartfelt “thank you.”



Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, left, addresses audience questions with Command Sgt. Major Mark Farley during a special forum Aug. 22 on Conn Barracks.

SMS principal urging parent involvement

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

The start of a new school year is upon us, and with it a new principal for Schweinfurt Middle School has arrived.



Carpenter
“I’m looking forward to a validation from an outside team that SMS is on the right track.”

Dr. George Carpenter has been an educator for more than 35 years, and he brings high expectations to the table for teachers, students, and parents alike.

“I want to maintain the great things that the school is doing and to work with teachers, parents, and students to expand and improve in areas where we may need to do so,” said Carpenter.

“I expect teachers to have high expectations for all students and to accept responsibility for assisting all students in meeting their educational goals,” he said.

Carpenter himself was greatly affected by teachers he had in middle and high school in

Montgomery, Ala.

They served as his role models and sparked a desire in him to become involved in education himself, but administrative work was not what Carpenter had in mind at the beginning of his career.

In fact, he said he avoided it for a long time because he liked to work more directly with students as a counselor.

Working with students is also a parental responsibility, he says. Research shows that when parents are involved in the school in any way, student achievement goes up.

And because of that, Carpenter highly encourages parents to do their part, “(and) not just come when they need information or when they want to complain,” but to become involved in the Parent-Teacher-Student Association, school advisory committee, or volunteer.

“The key is to become involved in their children’s education,” he said.

This year, North Central Association will be visiting SMS, as it does every five years, to certify that it meets academic, curriculum, and facility requirements.

2007-2008 School Year

The North Central Association will visit SMS this year to certify it meets academic and facility requirements.

“There have been tremendous changes in the education arena,” said Carpenter. “One being the amount of testing— we want to be assured that our students are progressing....I’m looking forward to a validation from an outside team that SMS is on the right track.”

For Carpenter, “the right track” means providing educational experiences for students that will help them to be productive citizens in the future and life-long learners, not dropping the urge to learn just because high school or college is over.

“Every once in a while you get to see a student who has... graduated... and there’s some satisfaction in knowing that your efforts and your teamwork have been attributed to them being successful,” said Carpenter.

Carpenter, who recently came from the much larger Landstuhl area Department of Defense Dependents Schools system, says he is looking forward to working in such a close-knit community.

“It’s good to be here. I’ve heard a lot of good things about this school and community....So far, I’ve been impressed,” he said.

Wall provides physical outlet for Families

Story and photo by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Conquering fear and conquering the wall was part of the mission of Army Community Service’s “I Can Do It: Rock Climbing” Aug. 7.

All summer long, the Success Series sponsored by ACS has conquered a multitude of arenas: auto basics, arts and crafts, framing, bowling, paintball, and more.

“Part of the ACS mission is to have an engagement program to identify and hear issues in the lives of Soldiers and Family members... before they become big problems,” said F. “Lew” Lewis, ACS community service specialist in Leighton.

These activities provide a physical outlet and provide an environment where people can share about the stresses in their lives if they so choose.

The “I Can Do It” Success Series is designed to boost the emotional and spiritual well-being during these difficult times for both adults and children, he said.

Christian Hofstetter, outdoor recreation director, explained how he enjoyed seeing people conquer their fears.

“I tell them: don’t look down, concentrate on the next grip, hug the wall,” he said. “Some 3- and 4-year-olds that were afraid of heights went up and then came down with big smiles and they were so proud,” he said.

The automatic rope belay system can hold a 30-pound child or a 300-pound man.

“This was my first time climbing a wall, and I was scared. But now that I’ve gone up twice (today), it’s fine,” said Kelly Brock, a 69th ADA Family member in Leighton.



Kelly Brock tries her hand at rock climbing on the wall outside Outdoor Recreation on Conn Barracks Aug. 7

New garrison chaplain hoping to fill pews, create place for people to ‘come and have fun’

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

“I was at the opening of Burger King with my son. That dates me a little,” said Schweinfurt’s new Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thomas Wesley.

This is not his first tour in Schweinfurt. He and his wife, daughter, and two sons were here from 1985 to 1988 serving in the chaplaincy. In his 27 years of active duty military service, Wesley has been stationed in Germany a total of four times.

“I’ve actually lived outside of the U.S. more than I’ve lived inside the U.S.,” he said after describing his youth growing up in the Panama Canal Zone where his father worked.

organization called Youth With a Mission. Their active Christian program drew him in as a young Soldier. Wesley recalled a time when a YWAM leader asked him if he knew Jesus. After Wesley’s affirmative response, the leader asked him why he wasn’t serving Him.

“I’m interested in the spiritual health and depth of people... It breaks my heart to see wives walking around with their strollers all by themselves (during deployments).”

Lt. Col. Thomas Wesley
Garrison Chaplain

“It was a really strange encounter, but it got me to thinking,” said Wesley, as he explained how this experience jumpstarted his journey into the chaplaincy. “I started reading the Bible and praying... and next thing I knew, I started to experience God in my life.”

And that experience was one in a series of life-changing encounters that has played a role in bringing him to the Schweinfurt community as the new command chaplain of

Ledward Chapel.

“The basic infrastructure is the same,” he said, about Schweinfurt military facilities, “but there have been a lot of improvements.”

Wesley hopes to add to those improvements.

“My desire is to build a work environment and a chapel community where people want to come and have fun... I’m interested in the spiritual health and depth of people,” he said.

Wesley aspires to get the Conn Chapel services started up again and also hopes to fill up the pews in Ledward Chapel each Sunday. And, like many, he looks forward to Soldiers returning from downrange.

“It breaks my heart to see wives walking around with their strollers all by themselves... [Enduring deployments] is a hard thing that we ask of Families,” he said.

Wesley also looks forward to a change in job description with this final “retirement tour.” Interaction with people is what he’s all about, and the last five years spent behind a computer doing administrative tasks was hardly that. But now, his tour in Schweinfurt will finally provide the opportunity to connect.

And as far as Schweinfurt goes, Wesley said it’s great to be back one last time.



Wesley

Memorial service honors fallen Soldier known by family as the king of one-liners



Silvia Turpin, 9th Engineer Battalion Family member, signs the guest book at the memorial ceremony for Spc. Christopher Neiberger in Schweinfurt Aug. 22.

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt community gathered Aug. 22 for a memorial ceremony in honor of Spc. Christopher T. Neiberger, 22, of Gainesville, Fla., who died Aug. 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device.

Neiberger was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"He was a great Soldier," said Staff Sgt. Luis Castro on behalf of the Charlie Rock Company Commander Capt. David Diaz. "He took orders and executed them to the best of his ability, very rarely complaining."

But only those who worked with him directly knew what made him such a unique individual, Diaz said.

"He was like a little brother to all of us," he said.

Diaz recalled a time when he worked with Neiberger on his "flat feet" so that he could get into a proper fighting stance. Diaz instructed him to walk on his toes at all times, and after a while, Diaz noticed that Neiberger's balance was greatly improved.

"He had a certain unexplainable glow to him," said Pfc. Avi Michael Fishman, a former comrade, whose remarks were read by Pfc.

Timothy Spencer.

Neiberger and Fishman talked about how they'd feel about dying while serving in Iraq. Fishman remembers Neiberger saying that he would be okay with it because he "lived a good life."

"Spc. Neiberger made a difference and he still does... Soldiers like (him) make a team complete with selfless service and dedication to mission accomplishment," said Capt. Rickey Torres from the remarks given by Battalion Commander Lt. Col. George Glaze at the memorial ceremony downrange.

Task Force Guardian Commander Lt. Col. Robert Whittle described how he was known to his family as the king of one-liners. Neiberger was also an Eagle Scout, and he loved to travel and write short stories. He was able experience some of that traveling when he went on numerous mission trips before joining the Army. "You could count on him to make the best of all situations," said Brigade Chaplain (Col.) James Brown.

"It is true that he had a sense of humor, but there was more to him than humor, there was a rare wisdom from which all of us can benefit and learn... Such a person is truly one of [God's] rare treasures," he said.

Neiberger is survived by parents Richard and Mary Neiberger, his sister Ami Neiberger-Miller, and his brothers Eric and Robert.

Youth have fun, learn Christian values during VBS

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Ledward Chapel has been infused with excitement this summer as kids from preschool to fifth grade learn about God through Vacation Bible School's Avalanche Ranch.

Avalanche Ranch takes the kids on a "wild ride through God's Word," with activities to meet each child's learning style. Leaders and kids alike donned cowboy hats, boots, and bandanas for the festive week.

"It was really great. The activities were interactive and entertaining for the kids. Some of the younger kids have very short attention spans, but all the activities were very relevant to each age group and kept their interest," said Pfc. Jonathan Conerly,

a VBS volunteer crew leader.

Each morning's activities began at 9:30 a.m. with more than 155 kids gathering to sing and dance. From there, crew leaders with their kids stamped from one station to the next every 20 minutes until the program's end at 12:30 p.m.

Arts and crafts provided the opportunity for kids to have hands-on fun while horseplay games gave them a chance to run off energy in the motor pool. In the classroom, the kids watched their fuzzy friend Chadder learn about God and then discussed how Chadder's experiences applied to their lives.

"We teach five fundamental truths about God throughout the week, and the kids learn that God is truly involved in (their) lives," said Patricia

Wiedemer, VBS director from Leighton.

"They are also given the chance to show that God is working in their lives by doing a service of love at home," she said.

At the conclusion of each program, the kids were presented with a challenge of their choice. Many kids responded by deciding to make their bed or wash the dishes at home.

"Every single child is capable of showing love. That's what is so great for the parents to see," said Wiedemer.

The success of VBS was attributed to its volunteers. At a time when many are talking about transitions and may have their minds elsewhere, said Wiedemer, she was amazed to see the unity of those who came together to make the decorations and create the atmosphere that was needed.



A team poses as the wall of Jericho during Vacation Bible School. More than 155 kids participated in VBS Aug. 13-17.

Skate park now open

Story and photo by KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Schweinfurt celebrated the grand opening of its newest family-friendly project—a skate park on Kessler Field—Aug. 23.

"There are not many garrisons that would make a skate park a No. 1 priority on their Family housing project list," said Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, addressing a small crowd of skate-ready Families. The USAG Schweinfurt, however, did.

Haager noted that, as a deployed community, Schweinfurt has a special duty to Families, and providing entertainment outlets for all Family members is part of that duty.

One Family member in particular had a big hand in getting the skate park idea launched, and even took part in the design phase.

Nick Heikkinen is the Extreme Sports representative to the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Youth Advisory Council, and his suggestions and persistence prompted Haager's decision to approve the park project.

"I've been talking about (the skate park) for a couple of years," Heikkinen said.

The park has high, low, and compound ramps, slide rails, and plenty of opportunities for trick jumps, as well as benches off to the side so that spectators are not in harm's way.

Haager called on Heikkinen to do some tricks for the crowd. After

changing into his safety gear, and putting on some comfortable shoes—and explaining that his mom made him wear the "nice" ones for the grand opening—Heikkinen took a couple of runs up the ramps before calling the other skaters to come test it out.

Heikkinen, who began skating in the eighth grade, hopes that the park will give other kids the opportunity to give skateboarding a try.

"You can have something to do other than just hang around and maybe get into trouble," he said.

The park will be open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk. Use of the park requires the use of proper safety equipment, and proper, age-appropriate adult supervision.



The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk.

Receive free paid leave to work out, stay fit with Army Civilian Fitness Program

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

The alarm sounds and you smack the snooze button. "I gotta' get up and go to the gym," you think, "But just a little more sleep first..."

A little more sleep turns into a lot more sleep, until workout takes a backseat to the day's other activities.

Are you familiar with this scenario? You promise yourself that you'll get to the gym, but before you know it, another day has passed without exercise and you lie in bed thinking, "I'll do it tomorrow."

The Civilian Fitness Program is designed to bulldoze the excuses that keep you from working out every week.

Enrollment time has arrived once again, and it's time to take advantage of the opportunity to make lifestyle changes.

"When you're the most busy, that's when you need to go to the gym," said Angela Hunter, Health Promotion Coordinator.

"When I workout I'm more alert, I sleep better at night, I eat better and more conscientiously, I have more to give, I'm in a better mood," Hunter said.

Along with the rewards of a healthy body and mind, another aspect of the Civilian Fitness Program is that government employees, whether

civilian or local national, get paid to get fit.

The Department of the Army-approved program allows employees to participate in regular exercise while on the clock. With supervisor approval, enrollment in the program allows for three hours per week of time at the gym. At the end of the six months, that totals 72 hours of paid time for physical fitness.

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Deputy Garrison Commander Justin Mitchell strongly encourages the program.

"It really helps the morale of the staff," said Mitchell. "(Employees are more productive at work, more upbeat and positive," he said.

The Civilian Fitness Program enrollment takes place every six months—each March and September—which is also the duration of the program for those participating.

It begins with the pre-assessment which will be held at Kessler Gym Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sept. 19 from noon to 3 p.m.

At this pre-assessment, diagnostic data will be gathered about your present level of fitness and body

composition. Blood pressure will be taken along with measurements of body fat, height, weight, and body mass index.

Flexibility is tested and a short step test is given to record cardiovascular and respiratory recovery time.

The requirements for successful completion of the program are attending the pre-assessment, exercising three hours per week, and then attending the final assessment at the end of the six months.

If a person enrolls in the program but then discovers that he or she is unable to continue the commitment, all it takes is a simple phone call to Hunter.

Disenrollment is not a problem, Hunter said. It's just important that the person promptly informs her of their intentions.

For those who are concerned about a workout formula or where to start with their exercise regiment, there fitness coordinators available at no charge. Dieticians are also accessible at no cost to help participants build a basic nutrition plan.

"(Our goal) is to improve quality of life," Hunter said.

Register for fitness:

To register, attend pre-assessment at Kessler Gym:

Sept. 18
■ 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sept. 19
■ noon-3 p.m.

Oktoberfests, other local celebrations rooted in age-old German tradition

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

In a couple of weeks, on Sept. 22 to be exact, the Munich mayor will open Germany’s most famous fest - the world renowned Oktoberfest - with the words: “O’zapft is” (Bavarian dialect for “the keg is pegged,” meaning “the beer can now flow”.)

While for many foreigners the Oktoberfest with its beer and food specialties represents typical Bavarian culture, there are many other smaller fests all over the countryside that welcome you with local specialties and traditions.

The Oktoberfest has its origin as a celebration for the common folk in honor of the wedding of the Bavarian crown prince, who later became King Ludwig I.

He married the princess Therese Von Sachsen-Hildburghausen during October of 1810.

In contrast, many annual local fests are based on the seasons, traditional competitions, or have religious origins.

For easy understanding, the fest’s origin can be derived from its name.

Fests celebrating the seasons, such as “Fruehlingsfest” (spring festival) and “Herbstfest” (fall festival), or annual amusement opportunities for the common folk like “Volksfest (the people’s celebration) and “Buergerfest” (citizen’s celebration) are fairly obvious.

“Schuetzenfest” (shooters festival) and “Vogelschiessen” (bird shooting) are



Colorful posters advertise the event, though little advertising is needed since Oktoberfest is one of the most popular fests in the world and always occurs at the same time and place each year.



Every year, people from across the globe make the trek to Munich for the world famous Oktoberfest.

Courtesy photos

celebrations that accompany annual shooting competitions. They are hosted by the local shooting club and often commemorated by a parade through the town where the “Schuetzenkoenig” (king of the shooters – the champion of the competition) proudly wears a designated chain or other prized decoration.

Beautifully painted “Schuetzenteller” (shooters plates) featuring the Schuetzenkoenig’s name, the date, and his winning shot on a target are crafted for this special occasion and often have a spot of honor on the wall of a local Gasthaus or the shooting club’s meeting place for many years to come.

Many fests in the Upper Palatine region are called “Dult” (for example : Amberger Dult, Regensburger Dult). This name is believed to have its origin in the Gothic language.

Nowadays, they are prolonged open markets or fairs, but began in the the Middle Ages as church celebrations. The “Martinsdult”, for example, began as the celebration at the dedication of the local church to St. Martin.

It is easy to trace such tradition over the years to their current state because markets

and fairs often concluded the church celebrations.

Another name for these celebrations in Bavaria is “Kirchweih” – church dedication (which is often shortened and transformed to “Kirwa”).

This is a local celebration commemorating the dedication of the local church to the saint whose name it is bearing.

These are very important occasions for the village or town and feature various rituals, dances, traditions and, of course, special foods.

You can find just about anything to tingle your taste buds ranging from simple bratwurst and steak to spit-roasted whole oxen, served along side a big “Mass” (one liter) of local beer on wooden benches placed outside on the fair grounds or the market square.

Certain regions and town also offer special menus at the local “Gasthaeuser” to mark this yearly event. These customs can vary greatly from place to place. In my childhood village, Kirchweih starts on Thursday with an evening meal of “Rindskopf” (boiled meat from the cow’s head, served in a horseradish sauce and

accompanied by potato dumplings).

Friday it’s Karpfen (a German edible carp) that is served either “blau” (boiled in vinegar water which makes its skin turn blue) or “gebacken” (breaded and fried). The feasts continue through Monday with other delicacies like goose, duck, and wild game.

For the kids, the highlight of our celebration is the annual “guinea pig race” that takes place on Sunday in the firehouse (don’t worry, no animals have ever been harmed during these games).

The interesting aspect of the Kirchweih in my home village is that we don’t even have a church to dedicate or celebrate! When I questioned my father about his, he simply stated: “All the other villages celebrate Kirchweih and we wanted to have a Kirchweih, too. So we simply picked a date and started our traditions.”

So, if you want to observe some local customs and taste some special foods, go out and join your German neighbors at the next Kirchweih. I promise you, you won’t regret it and it will give you a the “true Bavarian experience.”

Bavaria’s version of Sauerkraut a favorite

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

Sauerkraut is considered a typical food that most people correctly associate with Germany.

And many versions of this traditional veggie can be found both in American an German cookbooks.

Most German versions get their unique flavor from the kind of fat that is used, the most common ones being lard, bacon grease, and goose fat.

Some varieties of Sauerkraut might include an added vegetable like carrots while others are thickened with pureed raw potatoes.

However you choose to enjoy the dish, it might be interesting to note the preparation that is especially popular in Bavaria and proudly bears the name of this German state: Bayrisch’ Kraut (Bavarian cabbage).

It is usually served with pork dishes like chops, bratwurst, or fried pork patties and rounded out with boiled potatoes or potato dumplings.

It is a very mild tasting Sauerkraut, but you can adjust the seasoning to your taste.

Give the following recipe a try. It may become a family favorite!

Guten Appetit!

Bayerisch Kraut

- 3 pounds cabbage (red, green or mixed), finely shredded
- ½ stick of butter (no substitutes)
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 1 medium apple, finely shredded
- 1 cup white cooking wine
- 2 Tbs. cider vinegar
- 1 Tbs. sugar
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. caraway seeds
- 10 slices of bacon, diced
- 1 Tbs corn starch, optional
- 1/4 cup water, optional

In a large, heavy pot, melt butter and lightly brown onions. Add cabbage; cook and stir for about 5 min. Add shredded apple, wine, vinegar, sugar, salt, and caraway seeds.

Cover and cook over medium heat for 10 minutes. Brown chopped bacon in a sauce pan. Do not drain. Add all to cabbage mixture and stir to mix. Continue to cook for about 30 more minutes or until cabbage is tender. If you desire to thicken the Kraut, mix corn starch and water and add to the cabbage mixture.

Return to a boil and cook for several minutes. Adjust taste by adding more vinegar and /or salt to taste.

Yield: 10 – 12 servings



Courtesy photo

Sauerkraut is a traditional German dish that can be served with a variety of meats. Most German versions get their unique flavor from the kind of fat that is used, the most common ones being lard, bacon grease, and goose fat.



Air Time

Vilseck High School's Varsity Football Assistant Coach Kevin Anglim works with players on defensive line technique using a hand shield.

GAME TIME: The VHS Falcons will have a Maroon and Gold scrimmage Saturday at the football field in Vilseck. The team's first game will be at Bitburg Sept. 15.

‘Coach Rat’ talks about the team, standout players, and the competition

“I can’t reveal what kind of offense or defense we will use, but the plan will ...”

Billy “Coach Rat” Ratcliff, tell us a little about yourself:

I teach Social Studies and English classes. Specifically, this year, I teach World Regions, U.S. Government, Sociology, and Psychology.

I have a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Maryland, a Bachelor’s in History from Cameron University in Oklahoma, a Masters in Behavioral Science from Cameron, and am working on my PhD in Education with Northcentral University (Arizona).

I’ve been coaching football since 1999 in Germany with several semi-pro and professional teams and have been coaching Vilseck High School football as an assistant for two years.

This is my second as head coach of the Falcons. So altogether about nine years, not counting time as a player-coach for teams in the United States. This marks my fourth year at Vilseck High School.

Give us an overview of the team:

Let me mention my coaches first as without them, we wouldn’t have a very strong program in my opinion! I have a staff of five excellent assistant coaches including four of them from the community.

Coach Kevin Anglim works as my official assistant (second year) and also teaches at the high school.

Coach Neal Hill works full time as a UMUC

field representative (second year).

Coach Jason Olive is my Defensive Coordinator (third year) and works as a civilian for the government in Vilseck. He has helped me coach for German teams and brings a lot of experience and knowledge.

Coaches Brad Duffey and Joe Jordan are new this year and are in the military. All of them are great with the kids, great teachers of the game of football, and I’m happy to have them on the staff.

Without those five, I’d be pulling my hair out trying to run a program this size.

About the team, including any standout players:

We have a very young team this year, with not as much size, but very big freshman and sophomores. We have over 50 players again this year on the roster, with a lot of speed. I have had the luck to get in some good transfers from other schools and stateside programs too.

Although we are only returning three starters on defense and four on offense, we have probably a much better team than we had last year when we went to the semi-finals. The team is very coachable and motivated!

My QB, **Justin Ingram**, also plays for a German youth team and did excellent this past season stepping in the day before the first game when our starting QB became ill. He finished the season as our leader and won MVP awards at the team level. He was nominated by me for all-conference last year. He recently won an MVP award at the 2007 DoDDS camp in Ansbach for the QB position.

Jamal Grant, one of the fastest players in Europe, has great hands and will have a big impact on the team with his ferocious blocking and tackling ability.

Josh Frank was a previous All-Europe selection from Bamberg last year; he transferred to us this year for his senior year and will

undoubtedly help us on both sides of the ball.

I have very few seniors on this team; If I am not mistaken, I have four seniors starting on offense and maybe three on defense.

Which team(s) will be our toughest competition?

They recently changed the makeup of the second division as enrollment numbers came in. We are part of the **Division II South** with Ansbach, Patch, Aviano, and Naples. Teams making up the North will include Bitburg, Shape, ISB, Mannheim, and Wiesbaden.

Both Wiesbaden and Patch played Division I ball last year. I think there will be a lot more (equality) this year than in the past.

I saw many of these teams at camp last month and they all look about like we do with a lot of smaller, younger players. Bitburg did not lose that many players, but they did lose a few key guys at skill positions.

However, they return most of their big offensive linemen and have one of the best running backs and linebackers in the league, Anton Harris. **In my opinion, they will be the team to beat in the North**, if not the second division.

I think we’ll be very competitive if we stay healthy and if we stay grade-eligible. Although Ansbach is small in numbers, they have great players in their QB (Willis) and RB (Shepard). They are also very strong and very well coached. They were the Division III champs last year.

Naples is also big, strong, and well-coached and won the Division II South last year so they will be extremely tough. I think the two toughest opponents on our six-game schedule would be Bitburg and Naples.

How is practice going? What are your season predictions? Practice is going great. Kids are learning our system and we are getting in shape! I hate making predictions, but I think we have a great shot of advancing into the playoffs if we take it one game at a time. Our goal is to make it to the championship this year and not just the semi-finals.

Define success:

I think a successful season is marked by making the most of what you have, not

necessarily in the win-loss record.

If you don’t lose any players to major injury, have minimal grade “casualties,” and have taught your players life-lessons as well as football, then you’ve done your job as a coach. I feel that we will be more successful than last season!

Are the players motivated? Do you think the deployment will affect players’ attitudes, behavior, or play?

Very motivated! I’m not sure what impact the deployment will have, but most of these kids play for themselves and the team, not for other factors. As coaches/teachers, we are always here for the players in or outside the classroom. We are kind of “surrogate” fathers if you will!

What was your take on the 2006 season? Will you do anything significantly different from last season? Any new strategies?

We lost many of the key players responsible for our success last season so we’ll use systems that will best take advantage of the players we have. Most schools in DoDDS know that I will throw the ball and take game preparation very serious.

My coaches and I rip apart film so we know what to expect and plan to use what we think will work offensively and defensively. I spend on average two hours a night talking to my coaches via phone/e-mail game planning after I get home.

I can’t reveal what kind of offense or defense we will use, but the plan will be to stop the run first on defense and be balanced on offense. We’ll also put a lot more emphasis on special teams and the kicking game this season.

Talk about community, parental, and student support.

Last year, there seemed to be a lot more community support than in the past, but I’d really like to see more parental support and I’ll be personally calling parents to help us out with running the chain, manning the gate, helping provide fruits and drinks at halftime, etc.

We have no changing facilities so units in the community are supposed to provide us a water buffalo and tents to use as locker rooms. We do plan on having feeds through AFN downrange to deployed parents like we did with Bitburg and Vicenza last year.

“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.”-

Vince Lombardi

Coach Rat takes a moment to talk to the players during last week’s practice.



Hohenfels Fall Sports Preview

Story and photo by GARRY BARROWS
Bavarian News

Lesley Lynch, Hohenfels High School's physical education and health instructor, has a lot going on these days.

Lynch is the school's **new athletic director**, taking over for Kathleen Clemmons who said she simply enjoys her volleyball and varsity basketball coaching duties too much to give them up. That may have been necessary as Principal Daniel Mendoza prefers to have someone who isn't also a coach fill the AD position.

Also, Lynch and husband Ed, the varsity football coach, recently purchased a home near Denver because, as she put it, "there are about a million golf courses in the area." They are both avid golfers who have been playing "intently for the past seven years, (and) we're getting better," she said.

The **varsity football** schedule has a different look this year as traditional rival, Ansbach, has moved up a division, and doesn't play the Tigers.

The six game schedule kicks off at home against Sigonella with an afternoon game on Sept. 15.

"Things have changed this year" Lynch says. "With the schools being a similar size, it's going

to be fun."

(Football) Coach Lynch is excited about his team this year especially at the quarterback position.

Last year's starter, senior Michael Tillberg, has added some muscle to his 6' 1" frame checking in at a solid 225 lbs, and "he has four years of experience, speed, stamina, and strength," he said.

Newcomer Brett Jones, the starter for the recently closed Giessen Army Depot team, has impressed Lynch as a "smart kid who can move the ball."

Should the injury bug pop up, junior Lucas Salarno is ready and Lynch likes his style too.

"He has a very good arm. In fact, you're going to see the ball in the air a lot more this year," Lynch promised.

Clemmons brings her **girls volleyball** squad into the six match season following an outstanding training camp. She refuses to admit to any goal or boast about her team's chances, but characteristically understates that her team will "continue the tradition of being very competitive in our conference as well as (the end-of-season European Championships)."

Varsity tennis coach Chris Hite is very upbeat

about his Hohenfels Tiger's team, saying "we have a chance to be very good, and we're going to look good too in our new uniforms." Hite also noted the league makeup with schools being of the same approximate size will make for outstanding competition.

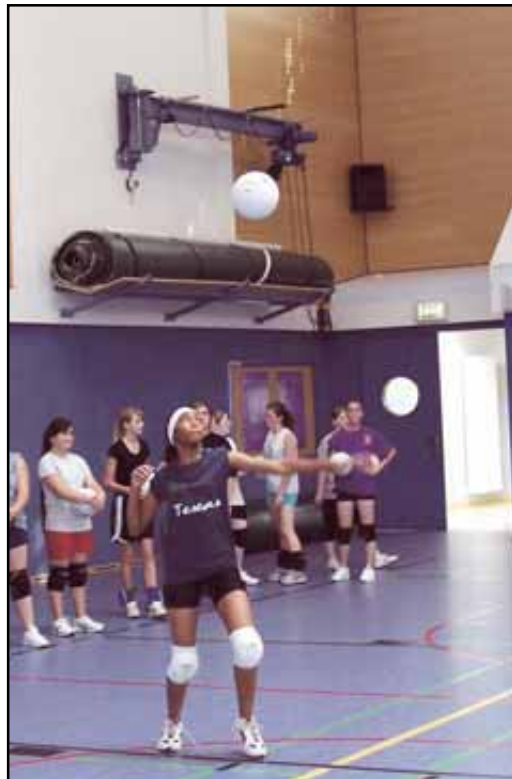
For the first time in recent memory, the team starts at home with a match against Wuerzburg Sept. 15.

Not to be left out, the **cross country** distance runners are ready for a new season and will begin by hosting a five-team meet at home Sept. 15 when Vilseck, Patch, Bamberg and Wuerzburg will visit.

While a focus may be on the high school sports agenda, Hohenfels **Child and Youth Services** has sports activities available for those not old enough to try out for the varsity. The Six to 18-year-olds soccer season is already underway, and they are providing a very entertaining brand for you to come and enjoy.

Eight to 14-year-old tackle football has also begun their season, so there is a lot of options for community members to choose from. Contact CYS at DSN 466-2558 for more information.

* All of the high school varsity sports teams have home dates Sept. 15.



(Left) Hohenfels junior Gabby Camp serves during volleyball practice. The team, coached by Kathleen Clemmons, is ready for the 2007 season after a successful training camp. (Above) The football season has kicked off and will highlight last year's starter senior Michael Tillberg and welcome newcomer Brett Jones. Standout players also include junior Lucas Salarno.

Soldier's second Olympic boxing bid could be last hurrah in ring

Story and photos by TIM HIPPS
Army News Service

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program Spc. Mahlon Kerwick has dedicated his Olympic dream to his Family.

Kerwick is the most-experienced boxer among 12 Soldier-athletes competing last week at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team Trials in Houston.

Kerwick's father, Ray, has been refereeing and judging bouts since Mahlon made his debut in the ring as a 9-year-old. His mother, Peggy, has been a boxing timekeeper for more than a decade.

"She realized early on that if she didn't get involved in the sport that she would never see us," Ray quipped.

Now Kerwick's wife, Samantha, attends his workouts with 10-month-old son Killian in tow. "It's funny - I don't have to watch him in the gym anymore because his wife comes and sits with him and she's rougher on him than I am," All-Army boxing coach Basheer Abdullah said. "I think that's his greatest inspiration. She inspires the heck out of him. I love having her in the gym."

"I'm actually doing this for my Family right now," said Kerwick, 26, who took nearly a three-year hiatus from boxing but managed to finish second in the 152-pound division at the 2007 U.S. National Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo., in June. "My father, mother, wife, son and the whole WCAP program is one big family for me."

A five-year Army veteran, Kerwick boxed in the World Class Athlete Program from 2001 until 2004. He re-entered the program as a boxer in October.

"Coach Abdullah wanted a second chance with me and he's really been working with me to make the Olympic team," Kerwick said. "I'm very appreciative of that. A three-year layoff is a long



Spc. Mahlon Kerwick (above left) of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program says 10-month-old son Killian (at right with Kerwick) provides new inspiration.



time, but I'm feeling better than ever."

Kerwick posted an 11-5, quarterfinal victory over former military world champion Capt. Boyd Melson at the recent U.S. National Championships. With the exception of one brief sparring session, it was the first time the WCAP teammates have met in the ring.

"Don't get me wrong because he is a great fighter, but I believe I'm better," Kerwick said. "I don't know if I'll get every decision when I fight him, but today I got the decision and that's the way I'm going to try to keep it."

Kerwick advanced through the semifinals via medical disqualification of two-time defending national champion Demetrius Andrade. In the finals, Dallas' Charles Hatley built a 20-point lead on Kerwick before the referee stopped the contest in the second round.

"I'll be back for the big event at the Olympic Trials and hopefully I'll do better," said Kerwick, who is embarking on what could be his last

hurrah in the ring.

During the mid-1980s when Ray Kerwick was an avid kickboxer at a gym in Fort Lewis, Wash., Mahlon always tagged along.

"While we were doing karate, he would box," Ray recalled. "His coach kept telling me that he was a natural, and he just exploded from there." Dan Vassar, Mahlon's original boxing coach, was in Colorado Springs for the recent U.S. National Championships, as were Ray, Peggy, Samantha and Killian.

"Peggy doesn't usually come to Nationals, but he just had a baby boy so we figured we'd kill two birds with one stone," said Ray, 53, of Spokane, Wash.

As much as Ray would cherish having an Olympian son, he's already proud of what Mahlon has accomplished. "I just hope he stays focused and does what he's capable of doing," the elder Kerwick said. "He's already met all of my expectations."

Sports Briefs

Bamberg holds 2007 Golf Championship Sept. 22-23

Compete in this two-day tournament Sept. 22 and 23 and be named Bamberg's 2007 Golf Champion.

Tee-off times start at 9 a.m. at the Bamberg Whispering Pines Golf Course. Registration cost \$30 per player. Call CIV 0951-300-8953 for more information.

Register for Bamberg's unit-level volleyball season today

Teams must register by Sept. 15. Play begins Sept. 19. Community level play will take place September to November. Contact Charles Williams at the FFF for more information at CIV 0951-300-7597.

Want to promote your sport?

Just call DSN 475-7113 or e-mail adriane.foss@us.army.mil for coverage.

Apply now for the 2008 U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team.

The application deadline is Sept. 30. U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team members will represent the U.S. Armed Forces in local, regional, national and international events throughout the 2008 season. Each service branch has a different procedure for sports applications. All can be found online:

AIR FORCE: www.usafsports.com

ARMY: www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/sportsandfitness/application/

The U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team also requires a soigneur and a licensed bicycle mechanic.

For further information on required qualifications and position duties for these two positions contact Team Manager Debra Ponzio, debra.ponzio@sembach.af.mil.

Graf MWR Bodybuilding Championship set Sept. 15

Sign up online by Sept. 7 at www.mwr-europe.com. Open to all ID card holders, active duty Soldiers, civilians and Family Members.

For more information, call Tony Lee at DSN 475-7576.

Sign up for the Unit Level Combat Cross Country

Calling all Soldiers! Your unit can enter the Sept. 19 USAG Grafenwoehr Unit Level Combat Cross Country to compete. Teams must sign up by Sept. 14. For more information, call Tony Lee at DSN 475-7576.

Battle in the Box Invitational Boxing event slated Sept. 15

The event will be held Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. and is open to all active duty male and female boxers.

Call 466-2868/2493 for more information.

JMRC hoss fall Golf Classic

The event will be held Sept. 10 at 8 a.m. at the Schmidmuehlen Golf Course. For more info or to register e-mail chris.cornelison@eur.army.mil.

Weekly Golf Scramble slated every Thursday

Join the weekly Thursday Night Scramble Golf Tournament at 5 p.m. at Bamberg's Whispering Pines Golf Course.

Entry fee is only \$5 per person. Please register by 4:30 p.m.

Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Call DSN 469-8953 for more information.

Find golf courses in Europe through ODR

Outdoor Recreation knows the great places to golf this summer. Call ODR at DSN 475-7402.